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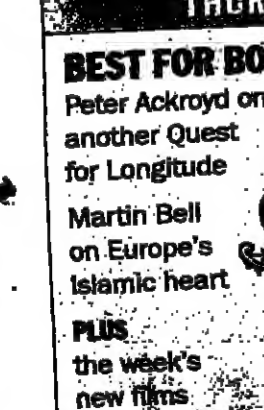
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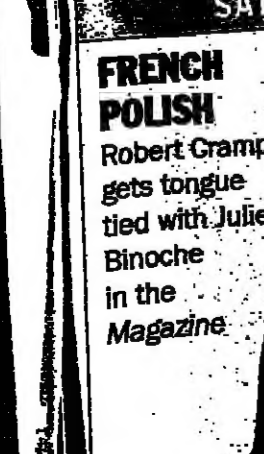
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Warning on 'human clones'

By JEREMY LAURANCE AND
MICHAEL HORNSEY

THE CHILLING prospect of a woman giving birth to an identical twin of her own father was raised by doctors yesterday after the announcement that scientists have for the first time succeeded in creating a clone of an adult animal.

Dolly, the Finn Dorset lamb who is the identical twin of her genetic mother, grazed contentedly on an experimental farm near Edinburgh while ethics experts warned she could be the harbinger of a scientific revolution in which animal life could be endlessly re-created without the need for sperm.

Doctors said the success of the scientists at the Roslin Institute in

Edinburgh, who have created an exact copy of an adult sheep from a cell in its udder, opened up the theoretical prospect of a world populated by identical clones of human beings.

However, the company which has bought the rights to the research, PPL Therapeutics, said the breakthrough would improve understanding of ageing and genetics and lead to the production of cheaper medicines.

The Roslin scientists, led by Dr Ian Wilmut, took the nucleus containing the genetic material from the mother sheep's udder cell and implanted it into another sheep's egg from which the genetic material had been re-

moved. The resulting embryo was then placed in a third sheep, which acted as a surrogate mother, and Dolly was born seven months ago. Dolly's existence was disclosed for the first time yesterday and details of the experiment are to be published in *Nature* this week.

Dr Patrick Dixon, author of *The Genetic Revolution*, said the same technique could potentially be applied to human beings. "This is an historic event. It is without parallel in genetic advances. Almost any technique that can be done with a mammal can be done with a human. It will bring with it a huge number of ethical questions."

Dr Dixon said he had been asked by a woman last week how she could clone her father, who had died.

"She wants to bring him back to life as a baby, perhaps even carrying him in her own womb," he said. "After hearing of Dr Wilmut's progress, I sent her a message today to say it will be possible sooner than she thinks."

Cloning can produce an exact copy, or identical twin. The genetic material must be taken before death, or shortly afterwards as freezing destroys the cells. Dr Dixon said people who might want to use the technique could include:

- People with serious illnesses

such as leukaemia, who could produce an embryo "twin" for "spare part" transplant or transfusion purposes.

- Dictators who wish to produce carbon copies of themselves.
- Parents who fear they might lose a child to cut death and would produce an identical replacement as a precaution.
- Entertainment moguls wanting to recreate dead stars.

In Britain, research on human embryos which have been removed from the womb is controlled by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and human cloning is banned. Suzanne McCarthy, the

Continued on page 2, col 1



Dolly is now 7 months old

Models of 13 on the catwalk

By GRACE BRADBURY
STYLE EDITOR



Vivienne Westwood, centre, with some of her teenage models during London Fashion Week at the Dorchester Hotel yesterday

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD, the doyenne of British fashion, opened London Fashion Week yesterday with her first show in the capital for eight years.

Lara Copcutt, a pupil at the Sylvia Young Theatre School in London, was one of two 13-year-olds in the show at the Dorchester Hotel. She modelled a collection which included figure-hugging Lurex dresses, low-cut skirts and mini-skirted suits.

Westwood's use of such young girls has provoked fresh controversy about the alleged exploitation of teenagers by the fashion world. But Jean Copcutt, Lara's mother, defended her daughter's appearance. "If the girls enjoy it and are well-chaperoned I think it's okay. Lara didn't wear such sexy outfits as some of the other girls."

Westwood's return to London is just one element in the capital's resurgence as a major fashion city. This season there are a record 48 shows.

Kohl rival throws doubt on wisdom of rushing EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERHARD SCHROEDER, the German Social Democrat most likely to challenge Helmut Kohl in next year's election, yesterday made his strongest ever commitment to delaying the introduction of European monetary union.

His comments — in an interview to be published today — came as an opinion poll showed that 77 per cent of Germans now want to postpone the common currency until after 1999. "You have to be able to stop a train which is running in the wrong direction," Herr Schröder told *Der Spiegel* magazine, referring to the euro. "If Kohl wants to declare this subject taboo, then he is revealing a rather problematic attitude towards the democratic fabric of our society."

The interview will be seen as a way of making the future of the euro a major general election issue.

Finance Ministry experts, quoted by *Focus* magazine at the weekend, say that Germany's overall debt will rise from 60.5 per cent of gross domestic product to 61.5 per cent this year. The Maastricht treaty stipulates a maximum figure of 60 per cent and interpretative leeway is supposed to be granted only to those states which can show a consistent reduction. Germany's debt, however, has been climbing since 1991.

Economists are already doubting that Germany can stick to its promise of keeping its budget deficit down to 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product just within the

Clarke's doubts

Kenneth Clarke last night added his weight to Government scepticism over the launch of a single currency by saying that it was very unlikely to start on time. The Chancellor endorsed the Cabinet position that monetary union would have to be delayed because of the difficulties in meeting economic targets. After a week in which he and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, were forced to deny allegations that they were split over the single currency, Mr Clarke was anxious to show unity.

Maastricht target of three per cent. Given unusually high unemployment figures so far this year, 4.66 million in January, and climbing, the deficit is likely to be well outside the entry target, unless a new savings plan is introduced.

These economic doubts have fuelled the movement for delaying EMU. Private bankers — though publicly still swearing loyalty to monetary union — are now beginning to consider EMU delay as a less disruptive course than allowing Italy and Spain to enter the club in 1999.

At the weekend the former Bundesbank member Wilhelm Nollinger — a long standing opponent of EMU — urged postponement and said he would join others to take matters to the constitutional court if Bonn tried to push ahead with the project.

The court gave the go ahead to the Maastricht treaty only on

condition that the entry criteria would be strictly applied and providing that each further step towards integration be monitored by the German parliament.

But the most potent opposition at present seems to come from Herr Schröder. Although the Social Democrats have yet to name their official rival to the Chancellor, popularity polls put Herr Schröder a clear five or six per cent ahead of the German leader. An opinion poll published at the weekend shows that 59 per cent of Germans want a greater role for Herr Schröder in the politics of the day, while only 45 per cent have the same hopes for Herr Kohl.

Delaying the common European currency said Herr Schröder would not destroy the project, nor would it create havoc in Europe. "For me, unlike Helmut Kohl, this is not a question of war and peace in Europe... a delay will not lead to the return of the nationalist problems of the 19th and early 20th centuries."

The Social Democrat — who is Prime Minister of Lower Saxony — thus deliberately echoed the words of Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, who sparked controversy with a Bonn speech last week.

Herr Schröder stressed he was not against economic and monetary union as such, only against a weakening of the entry criteria. He was convinced that Germany would have to engage in creative accounting to stand a chance of making monetary union on the basis of its 1997 results.

George Brock, page 12

Vegetables bred to beat cancer

Vegetables genetically engineered to give enhanced protection against cancer could soon be available. Broccoli and Brussels sprouts are particularly rich in "secondary compounds", called glucosinolates, many of which are toxic and appear to act as natural pesticides. Page 2

Cricket ground row splits village

A village has been split by a squabble over the future of its cricket ground on land worth a potential £6 million. The committee of the Oatlands Park club, near Weybridge, Surrey, says that falling membership have left it with no choice but to sell to developers. Page 3

Funeral ban on deposed leader

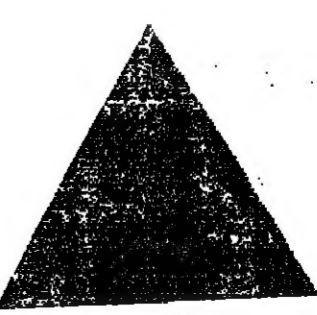
Zhao Ziyang, the former Chinese Communist Party chief deposed during the Tiananmen demonstrations in June 1989 for sympathising with student protesters, has been banned from attending the private cremation today of Deng Xiaoping. Page 13

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مركزنا من راصل

New breakthroughs in genetic engineering raise complex ethical issues

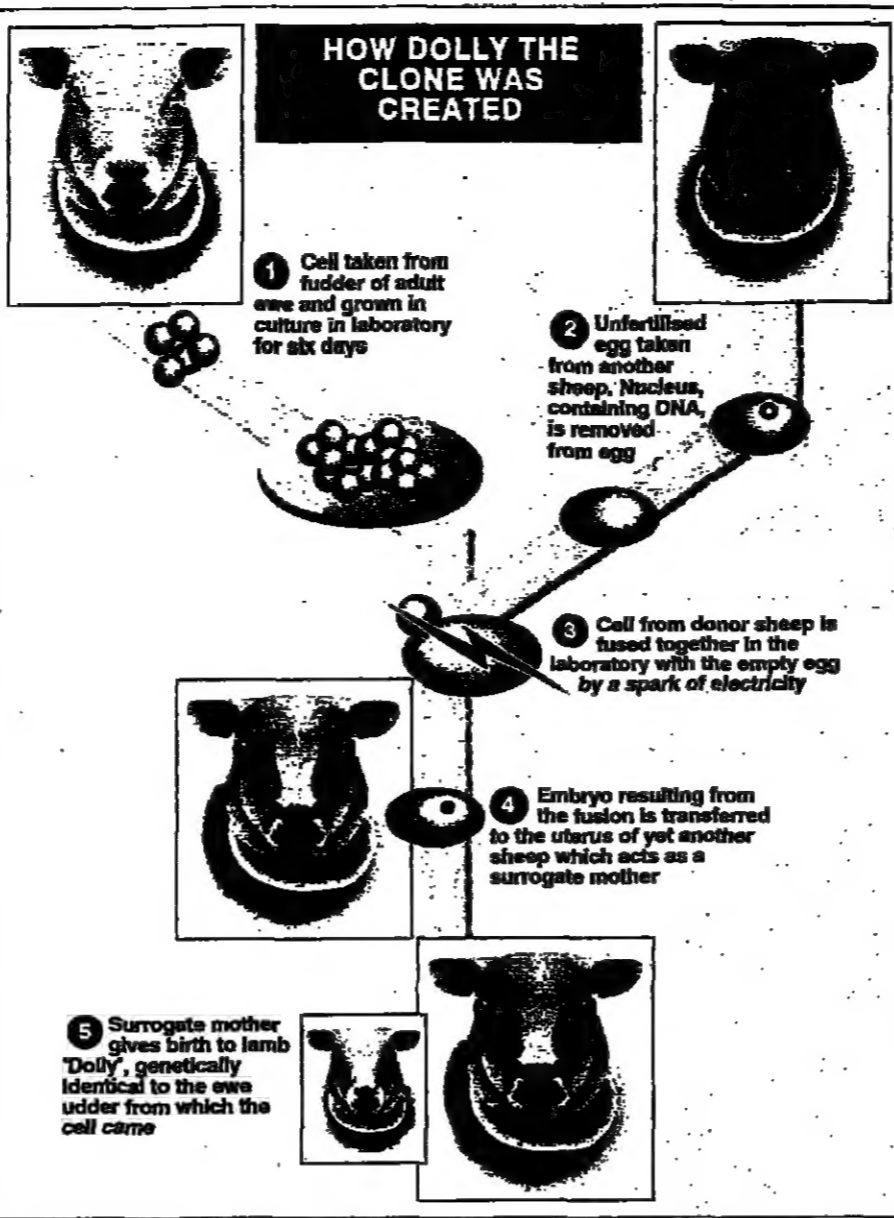
Scientists serve up vegetables that give cancer protection

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

VEGETABLES genetically engineered to give enhanced protection against cancer could soon be available. Nutritionists have long identified vegetables as a vital source of vitamins and minerals but in the past five years scientists have become excited about the cancer-fighting properties of other chemicals in the plants previously seen as harmful. Broccoli and Brussels sprouts are particularly rich in "secondary compounds", called glucosinolates, many of which are toxic and appear to act as natural pesticides, forming part of the plants' defences against herbivores. Scientists believe human beings have become biologically adapted to many plant toxins and that, far from suffering ill-effects from eating them, would benefit from an increased intake.

Broccoli has high levels of a glucosinolate that breaks down into a substance called sulforaphane, which has been found to have a powerful anti-cancer effect. Richard Mithen, a geneticist at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, said: "Sulforaphanes stimulate our natural defences by switching on detoxification enzymes, causing them to move round the body in greater numbers, mopping up carcinogens before they can damage our cells and excreting them in urine." Mr Mithen and his colleagues have isolated DNA material from broccoli containing the sulforaphane-producing genes and have begun experimentally implanting it in cabbages. Human beings are constantly bombarded with carcinogens, also called oxidants, through their diet and from the environment, and any means of helping the body's defences to keep them at bay reduces the risk of cancer.

Gary Williamson, a senior biochemist at the Government's Institute of Food Research, also in Norwich, is studying how sulforaphanes work. "We still do not know the optimum amount of sulforaphanes that are beneficial or the precise effect they have," he said. "Dutch scientists have shown that people eating Brussel sprouts, which also have high levels of these compounds, suffer significantly less DNA damage than people on a sprout-free diet. That is a good indicator of a reduced cancer risk." Brussel sprouts also contain another glucosinolate, called sinigrin. This has been found to have a different kind of anti-cancer effect, suppressing the growth of pre-cancerous cells that have become damaged in some way and may develop into full-blown tumours. In theory, compounds such as sinigrin and sulforaphane could be extracted and put in pills, in the same way as vitamin supplements. But scientists are reluctant to go down that path. "We do not want to encourage a pill culture, and anyway there are many other valuable compounds which you get from eating vegetables," Mr Mithen says. At present scientists also plan to restrict the transfer of sulforaphane-producing genes to vegetables within the brassica family.



Scientists sound warning on 'human clones'

Continued from page 1
chief executive, said: "You can't do human cloning in the UK. Anyone who wanted to do research on this would have to be licensed by us." However, controls in other countries are more lax. In America there are no laws regulating embryo research, which is controlled by local hospital ethics committees. Dr Richard Nicholson, editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, said the development brought the scenario outlined in the film *Boys from Brazil*, in which clones of Hitler are made, a step nearer. "Cloning humans might not be a risk in this country but if the details of the scientific research are published they could be picked up and used elsewhere. If some dictator somewhere decides it could help him he might just get a scientist to do it."

However, Lord Winston, the Labour peer and director of the *in vitro* fertilisation programme at Hammersmith hospital, dismissed such warnings as "fantasy" and a slur on other countries. "It is a ridiculous argument," he said. "There is no medical reason for cloning humans and there are obvious risks. It is clear from other experiments that transfer of genetic material is not wholly safe. I don't think anyone seriously believes there would be any benefit to cloning humans."

Dr Wilmut acknowledged that the cloning of adult humans was potentially possible but ethically unacceptable. "In the case of parents who have lost a child, they would not be recreating the same child, but an identical twin," he said. "It is an illusion to think otherwise, and desperately sad to think that people may be induced to believe it is possible to bring their dead child back." "We are aware that there is potential for misuse, and we have provided information to ethicists and the Human Embryology Authority. We believe that it is important that society decides how we want to use this technology and makes sure it prohibits what it wants to prohibit."

He dismissed the possibility of Jurassic Park-style cloning from the frozen tissue of dead people or animals as "completely fanciful". "Putting a person into a freezer wrecks the cells. There is absolutely no way that we can clone from a frozen animal or human," he said. The Roslin Institute made headlines round the world a year ago when it produced two lambs, Morag and Megan, which were genetically identical, using the same technique. On that occasion, the two lambs were clones of an embryo from which immature cells had been taken — that is, cells which had not begun to differentiate into the muscle, heart and brain cells found in adult animals. It had been thought that adult cells which were differentiated could not be used in cloning because it would be impossible for embryos derived from them to grow and be brought successfully to term.

This has now been shown to be wrong by the Roslin experiment. The report in *Nature* says it is now possible "by inducing donor cells to become quiescent to obtain a wide variety of differentiated cells". Scientists have already bred sheep which produce proteins in their milk that can be used as medicines such as the blood-clotting factor lacking by haemophiliacs. But it is a laborious and inefficient process and the use of cloning would make it quicker and cheaper.

Rifkind raises Tory cash on trip to Far East

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, used an official visit to Hong Kong to raise funds for the Tory party at one of the most exclusive hotels in the world. Labour plans to refer the incident to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life. For the second time in 12 months, Mr Rifkind took time off from government business to attend a cocktail party for Tory-voting expatriates. His attendance at a party political fund-raising function during a publicly-funded ministerial trip will put the Tories' refusal to disclose their sources of financial support back on the political agenda. The disclosure came as it emerged that plans for Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, to visit the colony have been shelved.

Tory strategists feared that a visit by Dr Mawhinney, who has no departmental brief relating to Hong Kong, would be a mistake. He would have been exposed to the charge that he went solely to raise funds for the general election campaign. Hong Kong has been a valued source of funds for the Tory party, whose £11.4 million overdraft was cleared last summer in 15 months, moving the party into the black for the first time in a decade. The Tories will have spent £20 million in the 12 months up to polling day, with £5 million alone on the current poster campaign.

Mr Rifkind's reception last Sunday was organised by the Hong Kong branch of Conservatives Abroad, which is the most effective overseas fund-raising arm of Conservative Central Office. He flew on to Hong Kong with a small retinue of officials after attending a conference in Singapore. The Foreign Secretary cut short the visit to fly back to Britain for the House of Commons debate on Douglas Hogg. His attendance at the cocktail party in the Mandarin Hotel has put him in potential conflict with strict civil service rules on ministerial conduct.

Released men 'need urgent care'

Urgent medical care is needed for the Bridgewater Three, whose psychiatric condition has deteriorated since their release, their lawyer said yesterday. Jim Nichol said he will demand an immediate £50,000 payment to fund psychiatric help for Vincent Hickey, his cousin Michael, and James Robinson.

Meanwhile, it has emerged that Michael Hickey and Mr Robinson could lose at least £100,000 each in compensation because they admitted armed robbery at the time of the Bridgewater murder trial. They were each given lengthy prison terms to run alongside their life sentences. Graham Leake, one of the police officers allegedly involved in concocting a false statement, said he hoped to issue a statement today.

Hostages freed

A kidnapped British scientist was waiting yesterday to be airlifted out of the Amazon jungle in Ecuador after an Indian tribe agreed to release him after a deal with his oil company employers. Heavy rain prevented an aircraft being sent to a clearing in the rainforest to fly Victor Read to safety. Mr Read, and fellow hostage Mark Humber, an American, were held a week ago. They are thought to be well, the Foreign Office said.

Gay 'marriages'

John Bowis, a Transport Minister, has called for homosexual couples to be allowed to enter into a legal contract akin to marriage. Speaking on Radio 5 Live's gay programme *Out This Week*, he said he would like to see a partnership law that would provide stability to gay couples committed to a relationship. "It may be that if one is able to achieve some sort of legal contract that would provide a stability," he said.

Son to be absent

The father of Sean O'Callaghan, the IRA man who became an informer, will be given a paramilitary funeral in Co Kerry today in the absence of his son who was shunned by his republican family after he turned against the terrorists. Jack O'Callaghan, 78, a life-long supporter of the IRA who said that his son's actions had "broken his heart", will be buried in his home town of Tralee. Sean O'Callaghan was released from jail last year.

Lottery rejection

Virginia Bottomley said she would reject any plan by Camelot to sell National Lottery tickets abroad, because the sales could not be properly regulated by Oflot. The National Heritage Secretary said the move would be blocked by Peter Davis, the Oflot director-general. "The regulator wouldn't be able to ensure properly, he wouldn't be able to ensure above all that the players are protected," she told GMTV's Sunday programme.

Film-maker dies

Frank Launder, who wrote, directed and produced some of the most popular films in the heyday of British cinema, died yesterday, aged 91. He was best known for his collaboration with Sidney Gilliat on the St Trinian's comedies and such films as *Millions Like Us*, *Water Road* and *The Rake's Progress*. Launder died in the Princess Grace Hospital, Monaco, near his home at Cap d'Ail in the South of France. *Obituary*, page 23

Tories block proposals for quarantine reform

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have dropped plans to commit a Tory Government to abolishing current quarantine laws and allowing pet-owners to bring their animals into Britain without a six-month safety period. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, blocked plans to promise wide-ranging reform, arguing that the move could become a liability among voters worried that relaxing the rules would increase the threat of rabies. Ministers have agreed instead to include in the manifesto only a commitment to consult on the issue soon after the election.

The change is a personal disappointment to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, who had hoped to consult before the election and put forward more definite manifesto proposals. He has argued that the six-month quarantine period is causing people to smuggle their pets into Britain, and that scientific advances now enable same-

day rabies checks to be made on pets.

However, Mr Howard was adamant that the proposals should be deferred. Supported by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, he gave a warning that a firm pledge could prove unpopular, particularly in seats containing ports, such as his own Folkestone constituency.

Ministers have drawn back from making a firm commitment to extend nationally the compulsory workfare-style scheme to find jobs for the long-term unemployed. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, had pressed for a firm commitment to extend the pilot Project Work scheme nationwide to include 600,000 people out of work for two years.

However, Treasury worries over the cost of the scheme and fears from other ministers that it was not a proven success would lead to the manifesto pledge being watered down. Instead, the pilot project, which will be extended today to include 100,000 people, will only turn into a national scheme if it proves to be cost-effective.

Heath rejects party line on devolution

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SIR EDWARD HEATH yesterday rebutted John Major's campaign against devolution and supported the introduction of a minimum wage. Sir Edward said that he continued to support the idea of a Scottish assembly, which the Tories had supported while he was party leader. Devolution posed "no danger to the unity of the United Kingdom", the former Prime

Minister told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*.

He accused the Tory Eurosceptics of really wanting Britain to leave the European Union, "but they're not honest enough yet to say so". "The purpose of the minimum wage is to avoid sweat-labour and quite rightly so," he said.

The Tory Right's ferocious response emphasised the strains in the party as the general election approaches.

Lewis opens fire again on Howard

By RICHARD FORD

Michael Howard is today accused by his former prisons chief of making repeated interventions in the running of jails in England and Wales. Derek Lewis, the dismissed former director general, describes Mr Howard as a man consumed by political ambition and "driven hither and thither" by the breezes of media and public opinion. "He is preoccupied with tactics to the exclusion of strategy, and at times appears to be cutting his suit to fit the political cloth just a little too finely," the former director general says.

Mr Howard is accused of making an abortive attempt to move Private Lee Clegg, jailed for life for killing a civilian in Northern Ireland, to an open prison for political advantage. He also wanted the Army called in to deal with a riot in a jail and demanded a hot line linking his office to the Prison Service Unit overseeing disturbances.

"The last thing we needed was an untrained home secretary trying to direct incidents. He still does not have it," Mr Lewis says in a book, *Hidden Agendas*, published today. Mr Lewis also gives his impression of some of the most notorious prisoners held in the 135 jails in England and Wales.

He met Myra Hindley, the Moors Murderer, when she was held at Cookham Wood prison and found her "intelligent articulate and well balanced, a far cry from the sort of person one might imagine to have been involved in horrific child murders". Mr Lewis joined the Prison Service in 1992 but was sacked



Lewis: book published

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Locals accuse struggling club of plotting to sell picturesque home for development after 130 years

Village battles over £6m threat to cricket ground

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

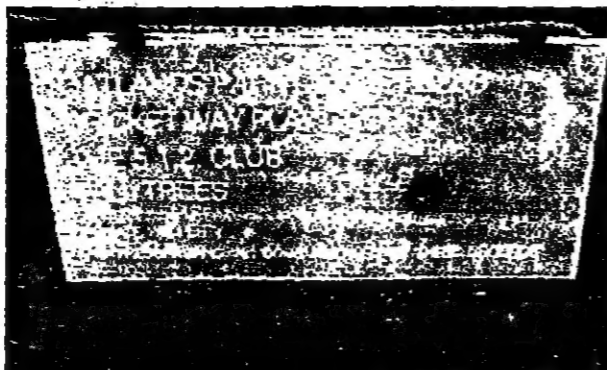
A VILLAGE has been split by a squabble over the future of a village cricket ground on land potentially worth £6 million.

The committee of the 130-year-old Otlands Park Cricket Club, near Weybridge, Surrey, claims falling membership levels have left it with no choice but to propose dissolving the organisation and selling the six-acre playing fields to building developers McAlpine. But others say the estimated 130 members who own it stand to benefit if the developers update their 1988 bid of £4.3 million to build 30 houses on the site.

A secret letter from the club to all members confirms that the best offer from developers will be discussed at a special meeting at the nearby Cobham Hilton on March 2. Ken Sanger, 48, a director of a freight forwarding company who lives nearby, said the club's founders would have been disgusted to see it closed.

"I think it is a place of great charm and beauty. It's lovely to hear the sound of bat on ball in the garden on a Sunday afternoon."

What the club members get for their membership is up to them. I wouldn't like it if someone tried to intervene in my tennis club, but I really don't think they should be able to sell it for development. If it has to go it should remain a sports ground," Ian Porter, 50,



Otlands Park Cricket Club says it is under threat from falling membership and is considering closure

a company director whose £300,000 house, The Wickes, adjoins the club, said residents had little doubt of the club's intentions. "I moved here a year ago and tried to become a non-playing member but it was pretty obvious they didn't want me," he said.

"In August I telephoned the president, Peter Johnson, and offered to buy a piece of land from them, which would have helped out their funds without any shadow of doubt, and I never even had my calls returned. My view is that they are not even giving the local residents a chance to help them, and let's face it, there's a few bob around here."

"Many of us would help out. I didn't buy this house next to some green and pleasant land for a lot of money to see a lot of houses put up on it. No-one

did." The club itself is surrounded by comfortable detached houses whose owners use the grounds to walk their dogs and let their children play safely on their bicycles.

The club groundsmen yesterday accused locals of failing to help out over the past few years, when declining membership levels made it become just the second club in 29 years to withdraw from the Surrey Championship. However Otlands Park's honorary secretary, Dominic Harrison, refused to respond to accusations that members had been required to leave and that others were refused permission to join. He insisted the club's future would be decided by its members alone.

"Our situation is crystal clear. This is a private club and any considerations concerning it are for the mem-

bers. It would be totally inappropriate for me to comment before the meeting on March 2.

"Everything that has been reported hitherto has been rather one-sided. I have personal opinions but none of them is relevant today and they will not be relevant next Sunday. Matters concerning the club are for the members' consideration only."

A local group, the "Friends of Otlands", organised by residents Terry King and Mr Sanger, circulated a petition opposing redevelopment. It also sent a letter to cricket club members urging them to vote against the plans. "130 years ago the Founder Members of OPCC would have been proud to know that their club would still be going in 1997. Please make sure that members in 130 years time will be proud of you on March 2 by not dissolving the club and not redeveloping the land," the letter read.

In the letter to club members two months ago signed by the president, Peter Johnson, and chairman, Peter Silcock, proposed dissolving the club. Urging all members to "limit discussion of the club's position to members and others in whose discretion you have confidence", they blamed social and demographic reasons for a declining playing membership that meant Otlands Park "has virtually ceased to exist as a



The ground could be sold to developers, say worried residents, who call it "a place of great charm and beauty"

club". The letter, dated December 4 1996, continued: "The committee thought it sensible to have some preliminary discussions with land agents. We are advised that there would be considerable interest in our site. A number

of prospective bidders have therefore been asked to submit draft proposals, the best of which will be selected and put forward to the members for consideration at the first EGM."

Chris Fuke, results secretary of the Surrey Championship, confirmed Otlands Park withdrew from the league late last year. "I know that some of the players are very disappointed about it. It is not as strong as other clubs in the area but it is by no

means the weakest team in the league. They have always fulfilled all their fixtures and they do not have a reputation for letting other clubs down. I hope things work out favourably for them in the end," he said.

Pilots to get a back-seat driver for safety's sake

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY back-seat drivers will shortly be nagging aircraft pilots to alert them to danger. Psychologists have found that the voice of a wife, mother or girlfriend is the most effective way of conveying warnings to helicopter crews, fighter pilots and airline captains.

An electronics company is offering to use them to replace the anonymous female voices that deliver warnings in the USAF's "Top Gun" films, many RAF aircraft and North Sea helicopter flights.

When voice-warning systems were originally recorded a decade ago, the Defence Research Establishment at Farnborough in Hampshire found that women's voices commanded more immediate attention. The sound of a woman's voice, it was argued, made male pilots promptly sit up and take notice.

In 1987 only 8 per cent of air traffic controllers were women, but since 1990 more than a fifth of the 950 controllers recruited by the Civil Aviation Authority alone have been women, and the number of women pilots has doubled in the last five years.

With female voices now routinely heard in pilots' headsets, it is feared that men are becoming too accustomed to them and apt to pay them scant respect. Scientists have found, though, that the disembodied voice of a mother, wife or girl friend can still com-

mand respect, and grab the pilot's attention to alert him to dangers or technical hazards.

The British electronics company Racal is "actively offering to install" a personalised "voice-warning system" as "back-seat driver" in military and civilian aircraft all over the world.

The system records the voice of the individual customer (think of the individual customer thinks would command most attention so that it can then be fed into the aircraft's electronic warning systems before the pilot takes off. The recorded messages vary from friendly advice to "check your height" to urgent commands such as "land at once".

The recordings are made in a studio and the tone of voice and urgency can be varied according to the degree of pilot error or the potential danger. "Where helicopters or small jets fly low, or private pilots need to be shaken into paying immediate attention, the wife's voice is likely to be perfect for the job."

Dr Julie Edworthy of Plymouth University said: "What is important is to find a balance between habituation and so shocking the pilot that he over-reacts. A wife's voice would certainly get his attention because she would be the person he would least expect to hear while he was flying. Whether it is ethical to use the wife's influence in that way remains to be decided."

Pupils 'put on bail' for kissing

BY JOANNA BALE

TWO sixth-form pupils at a public school have been put on £500 "bail" by their headmaster after being caught kissing in a corridor. The boy and girl agreed to the "good behaviour bond" as an alternative to being expelled from Dean Close School, Cheltenham.

The headmaster, Christopher Bacon, said that at the time, the two were on final warnings after an earlier incident. "They were caught in a minor incident of a private nature and I am not prepared to divulge what happened."

A compassionate alternative to excluding them was to put them on caution money, which is a deposit for their good behaviour. They will get it back at the end of their time here if they behave themselves. It is like being on bail.

Mr Bacon said that he had imposed a bond about a dozen times on pupils in the past 20 years. The school, founded in 1886, takes boarders and day pupils. Fees are up to £12,000 a year.

One mother, who declined to be named, said: "I don't agree with this action. The school is stopping them behaving like normal youngsters. They were not doing anything disruptive or immoral as far as I can understand."

"Dean Close used to be single-sex, and no one wants it to return to those days, but if you are going to have girls in the school, things like this are bound to happen."

A daily pint can keep the inches at bay, says scientist

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BEER has been unfairly blamed for increasing the girth of generations of drinkers, an expert in analytical chemistry claims.

The merits of beer have been missed because of its undesired association with large, pot-bellied men propping up bars. A pint a day could even be the basis of a weight-loss diet, Professor David Williams of the University of Wales, Cardiff, says.

Beer is a "complete food" and its health benefits outweigh its dangers, he says. All the evidence was that those who drink moderate amounts live longer.

The large abdomens developed by some heavy drinkers were not attributable to beer itself but reflected the effect of alcohol as an appetite stimulant and as an anaesthetic. "Alcohol numbs your stomach, so you can't always tell when it is full," Professor Williams says.

For most people even the effect of the appetite stimulus



Fat-bellied despite being beer drinkers

was offset by the carbon dioxide in beer, which encourages drinkers to take small quantities of food with pauses in between. Carbonated drinks also aid digestion by promoting acid production in the stomach and stimulating blood flow.

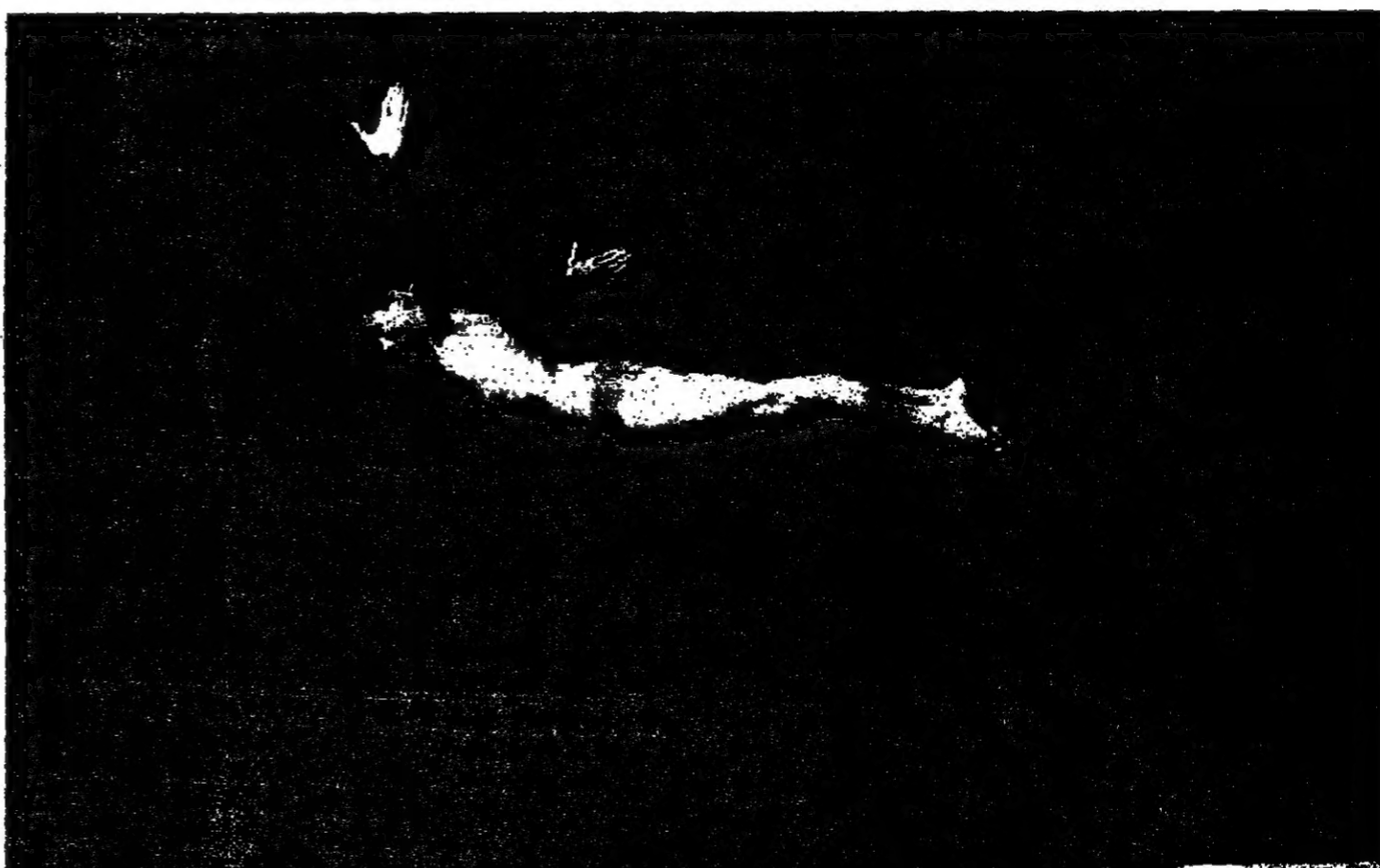
Beer contains no fat what-

ever and no sugar, but worthwhile amounts of carbohydrate, protein and vitamins. It is 93 per cent water, providing an important source of the four pints of water a day required by the average person. It is healthier than soft drinks because it does not rot the teeth and contains low levels of additives and other contaminants, which are soaked up by the yeast used in fermentation and then discarded.

Writing in *Chemistry in Britain*, Professor Williams calls for an end to some of the myths surrounding a beverage which people have made and consumed since about 3,500 BC. As well as providing the right nutrition, beer has a relaxing effect that helps to reduce stress.

"When used as part of a balanced diet, beer is beneficial for human health and the infrequent mishap resulting from a little over-indulgence is no reason to brand beer as contrary to our wellbeing."

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BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

6. Welfare reform

Providing a fair deal at an affordable price

ASK people what issues will determine their vote at the next election, and they are likely to mention the public-service end of the welfare state — health and education — rather than the benefit system. Yet social security will be critical at this election for two reasons.

First, the social security bill now costs each working adult £15 per working day. It accounts for nearly a third of government spending and, until recently, has been growing faster than the economy's ability to pay for it. So each time that politicians talk about cutting taxes or holding down public spending, voters should ask whether they have thought of ways of restricting the growth in the largest single element of public expenditure, social security. Welfare reform is the flipside of tax cuts. And

even if it does not feature prominently on the hustings, it will have to be high on the list of any incoming government's priorities. Whichever party wins will have to tackle the costs of welfare, but neither wants to shout about it. Any reform is likely to hit the pockets of the middle classes, whose votes they so assiduously court.

Since today's welfare state was created, just after the war, social security spending has risen eightfold in real terms. Even though the economy has also grown fast, spending on benefits as a percentage of national income has risen even faster: from 4.7 per cent in 1949-50 to 12.1 per cent now.

The factors driving this growth are demographic (more old people living for longer); social (family

breakdown and more lone parents); and economic (higher unemployment). Government policy too has played a part: instead of building council houses for the poor, a bill paid by the Department of the Environment, the Government has preferred to pay them housing benefit, a cost met by the Department for Social Security.

Since none of these pressures is likely to diminish, and since the public is unwilling to pay higher taxes to cover them, the big question is which party is most likely to be successful at reining in the growth of social security without forcing people into destitution or hugely increasing the numbers of the poor. The Tories claim that they are the instinctive tax and spending cutters, while Labour is in lock to the poverty lobby. Yet

THE POLITICS

Tony Blair has made welfare reform one of his top stated priorities for government.

Mr Blair claims that, like Nixon visiting China, only a party of the Left can be trusted to take on the welfare state. It is certainly true that other, modern-thinking left-wing governments in countries such as America, New Zealand and Australia have made bold reforms to social security. Throughout the Anglo-Saxon world, socialists and their successors have moved in the past decade from backing higher benefit payouts to wanting to help people off welfare altogether. "A hand-out, not a hand-up" is now a well-used phrase.

The Labour Party's journey from

hand-out to hand-up has been conducted under Mr Blair. At the last general election, its biggest spending pledge was to increase child benefit and pensions, paid for by raising taxes on the rich and not so rich. Because the poor comprised mainly families with children and the old, this was thought to be a "socially just" and efficient way of tackling poverty.

Now there is no talk from Labour of raising the level of benefits, least of all "universal" ones such as child benefit and pensions, to which the rich are also entitled. Instead, the catchphrase is "welfare-to-work". Labour promises to spend the proceeds of its windfall tax on the utilities on helping 250,000 young and long-term unemployed off the dole and back into work.

The young will be offered a

choice of four opportunities: a private-sector job with subsidy paid to the employer; education or training; a place on an environmental task force; or a job with a voluntary organisation. Critically, if they refuse all of these, they surrender 40 per cent of their benefit. "Rights and responsibilities" is the other tough slogan.

Labour also wants to get lone parents with school-age children back to work and is promising to increase the network of after-school and holiday clubs to solve the parents' childcare problem.

The Conservatives are concerned about social security spending too. Peter Lilley has reformed the system in a piecemeal way (see below), which together should save £6 billion a year by 2000 and £15 billion by 2020. Opposition to

these changes has been taken. Labour has privately been content to let the Tories do such dirty work.

Would another Conservative term deliver reform on the same scale as Labour? So far, recent Tory policies have been similar to those of Labour — a "workfare" scheme here, a project for lone parents there — but they have mainly been in the form of pilots and the "workfare" is expected to be self-financing. Labour, it seems, might devote more energy and money to the problem.

So there is a choice. A Labour government could be hampered by the Left and its associated lobbies, but it would have welfare reform as one of its flagship policies. A Tory government would have more freedom for manoeuvre but possibly less momentum.

Tories have changed the benefit balance

WHAT is the measure of success when judging a government's record on social security? Should it be the extent to which ministers have curbed the growth in spending? Or should it be whether poverty has been alleviated?

The purpose of social security, after all, is to ensure that those who cannot work do not starve or freeze. It is a sign of a developed or civilised society that the least fortunate are not allowed to become destitute. And as well as redistributing money from the rich to the poor, social security acts as a savings bank over people's lifetime: they put money into the system when they are earning and withdraw it when they are not, either because they are retired, disabled, looking after children on their own, or unemployed.

The problem for any government is that the budget is "demand-led" — that is, anyone who is eligible for a benefit can claim it. This means that the Treasury cannot limit the total spending; and if unemployment rises faster than expected, or the rate of divorce increases, then the social security budget can balloon out of control.

Labour's chief charge against the Conservatives' public spending record is that expenditure on areas such as education has suffered at the expense of increases in social security or "rescue" spending. It is certainly true that the social security bill has increased hugely in the 18 years of Tory rule — by 85 per cent in real terms (see chart). But the Tories could justifiably claim that, had it not been for their policies, the bill would be far larger still today.

By far the biggest change to the system that the Conservatives have made in the past 18 years has been to link benefits broadly to prices rather than earnings. The savings will amount to £8.6 billion a year

THE RECORD

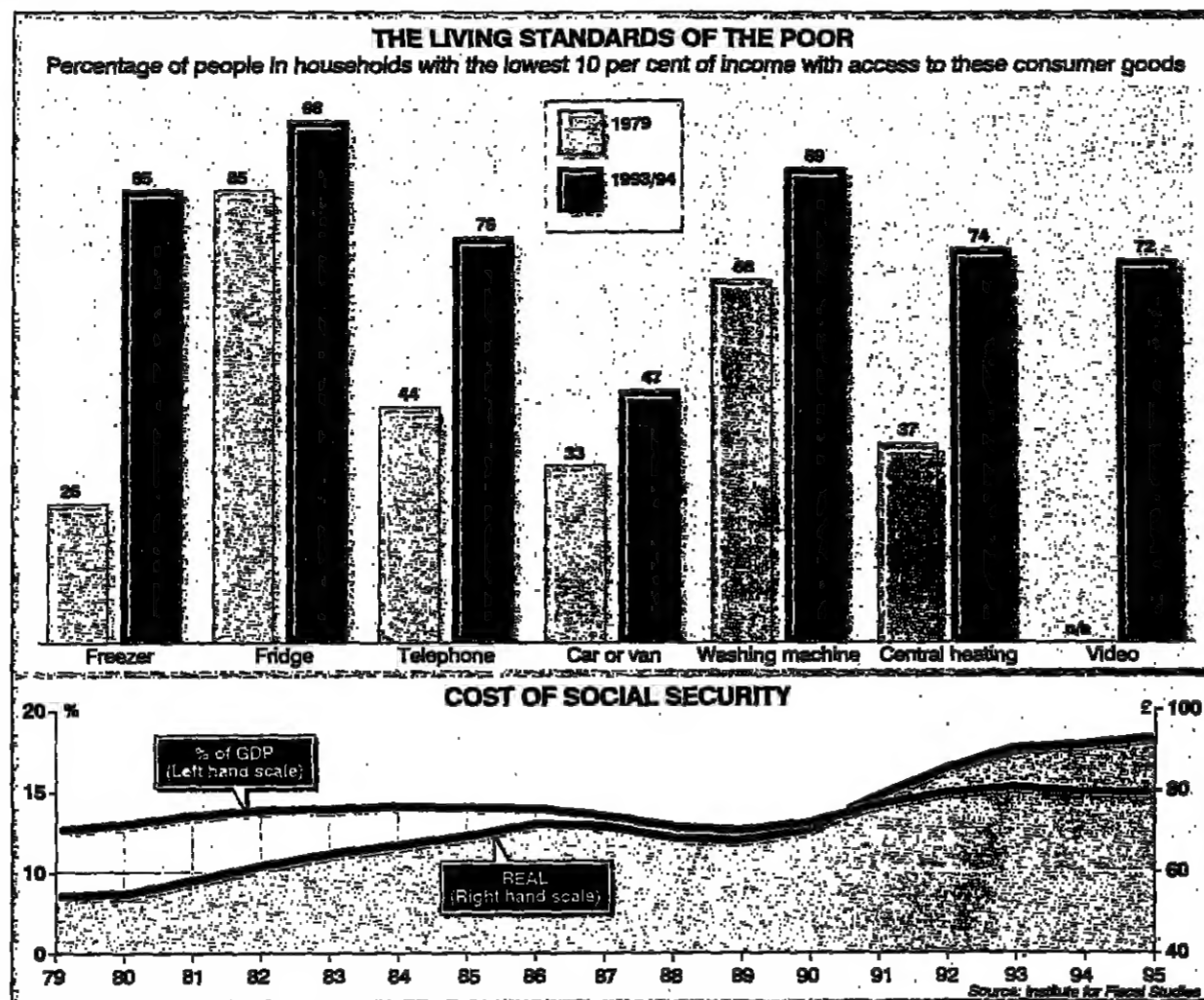
by 1997-98. Had the state pension continued to be pegged to earnings, it would be worth £23.50 a week more. But pensioners are richer now because of their own savings and second pensions.

The result of price-linking is that benefits are now much more "targeted" — that is, they are aimed more at the poor. The basic state pension is so low that those pensioners who have no other income have to be topped up with income support, a means-tested benefit. Child benefit too has been raised only in line with prices (and between 1988 and 1990 it was frozen).

Pensions and child benefit are the two main "universal" benefits, which go to rich and poor alike. Because they are being allowed to constitute an ever smaller share of income, in the long run, they will wither on the vine. Indeed, Michael Portillo has already warned the under-40s that the state pension they can expect will be "negatory".

This change has had two effects. First, it has made the social security system far more progressive: that is, it takes more money from the rich and gives it to the poor. It is now less of an insurance system, to which people pay premiums to get money back later. Those on above-average incomes will pay in far more than they will receive, unless they suddenly fall on hard times. More than ever, the benefit system now relies on altruism rather than self-interest.

The price-linking of benefits has also contributed to income inequality (see chart). Although the income of the bottom 10 per cent of the population has not fallen in real terms, the average income has risen by 39 per cent and top incomes by 59 per cent.



leaving the poor further behind in relative terms. On the other hand, the poorest 10 per cent are hardly destitute: 85 per cent own a freezer, 76 per cent have a telephone and 74 per cent have central heating.

The people at the bottom of income distribution now are not necessarily the same as those in 1979. Because of the increasing spread of second pensions, there are fewer elderly people, but there are far more young unemployed and more families with young children. The changes in benefit rules since 1979 have deliberately penalised young people, who are thought to have less excuse not to work.

Behind the Conservative reforms has also been an attempt to reduce the "disincentive" effect of being on benefit: when people feel better off on social security than in work. The introduction of family credit, which continues to pay benefits to parents in low-paid work, has helped to make it worthwhile for them to take a job. And the new Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) has reduced the time during which those with savings can claim benefit when they are unemployed, and made benefit contingent

upon looking for work and taking a job if one is offered. There must now be very few young people who choose to live on benefit. For a start, the levels are hardly princely: just £37.90 a week for an 18 to 24-year-old on JSA. Besides, there are huge regional differences in unemployment, ranging from 3 per cent in some areas to 10 per cent in others. It would be odd to claim that those living in the 10 per cent areas are just more idle. More likely is that demand for labour is weaker in those places — there are fewer jobs. As well as keeping benefit rules low, the Tories have also narrowed the eligibility for payments. The JSA is now harder to claim and the change from invalidity to incapacity benefit has tightened the rules by which doctors can sign off people as unfit to work. Given that benefit spending on the sick and disabled has increased threefold in real terms since 1979, at a time when people's health has improved, this was a necessary measure.

At the very bottom end of the income scale, though, changes to eligibility for one-off payments for items such as

cookers have left some people in real need. These used to be grants; they were changed to loans which have to be paid back out of claimants' benefits. Those judged too poor to repay the loans are not given them — which compounds their poverty and leaves them prey to loan sharks.

The biggest challenge to any new government will be what to do about pensions. Unlike some European countries, Britain does not face a conventional "pensions time-bomb", partly because the numbers of old people will be smaller here. Another reason is that the British hold more in second pensions than the rest of Europe put together.

But the not-so-cheering reason is that the basic state pension here is comparatively small. So a lot of people retiring in the next century will do so on very low incomes, which will have to be topped up by the State.

We all expect to live longer, but to retire at the same age on the same income (except for women, whose pension age is rising from 60 to 65). We also face the risk of having to finance long-term care. All this means putting more aside

during our working lives, either through savings or tax.

Higher social security spending could be financed by higher taxes. But the lesson of the past few elections is that voters are not prepared to pay more. So how to reduce the future cost of pensions and support for pensioners will be one of the most intractable issues facing the Social Security Secretary after the election. Labour is experimenting with several ideas: for instance, "stakeholder" second pensions, administered more cheaply than private pensions; and integrating taxes and benefits for the retired, which would allow the state pension to be clawed back from the well-off.

Whatever reforms are made to middle-class, universal benefits such as pensions, though, are likely to be made by stealth. As Mr Lilley has shown, welfare reform can be achieved, provided it is done in small steps, not with a big bang. This may make radicals feel impatient but in the long run it is a strategy that has been shown to work.

Next week: Defence

PETER LILLEY

Age: 54
Education: Dulwich College, economics at Cambridge.
Family: married to Gail Ansell, artist. No children.
Experience: former stockbroker. Became MP in 1983 and rose through the Treasury, entering Cabinet in 1990 as Trade and Industry Secretary. At Social Security since 1992.
Politics: early Thatcherite, as dry as a desert rock, Eurosceptical. A likeable and intelligent politician whose diffidence would preclude him becoming leader.



Performance: achieved social security cuts with remarkably little opposition. A little wooden in the House and on TV.

HARRIET HARMAN

Age: 46
Education: St Paul's Girls School, Politics at York.
Family: married to Jack Dronney, union official. Two sons and a daughter.
Experience: radical lawyer at Brent Law Centre, then National Council for Civil Liberties. Became MP in 1982, and Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1992. Moved to Employment and Health before Social Security last July.
Politics: staunch Blairite. Unpopular in the party for sending her son to grammar school.



Performance: the middle-class, feminine face of Labour. More successful on TV than in the House, where Tories wind her up.

I've always had this very straight economic — capital if you like — argument that what we need is a vibrant, healthy economy and money will flow through the system and make poor people richer. What I didn't realise was how the money doesn't get to the very poorest, even if the average wage goes up.

True Leith, Channel 4 Poverty Commission

To most people the idea that well over half the group alleged to demonstrate ever-deepening poverty nonetheless have a car at least gives pause for thought.

Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary

Social security, the very word chosen in 1945 to signify a fresh start. Once a dignifying concept that replaced the poor law, the words "social security" have now acquired the stigma that the old poor law possessed.

Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor

The insured persons should not feel that income for idle time, however caused, can come from a bottomless purse.

Sir William Beveridge, founder of the welfare state

I came to office with one delirious intent. To change Britain from a dependent to a self-reliant society — from a give-it-to-me to a do-it-yourself nation to a get-it-and-go instead of a sit-back-and-wait-for-it Britain.

Margaret Thatcher

The stark truth is that Britain's poorest pensioners may have to choose between heating and eating this winter.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

St Paul to the Thessalonians

CONSERVATIVES



Pensions: basic pension will probably remain universal and linked to prices. Private pensions will be encouraged. Women to retire, like men, at 65 from 2020, with higher pensions for people who defer retirement for longer.

Child benefit: likely to remain universal and uprated in line with inflation.

Welfare to work: extension of "workfare" schemes, speeding up Family Credit payments, helping with childcare, paying housing benefit and council tax benefit for first four weeks in work, plus back-to-work bonus.

Lone parents: continue efforts to make fathers contribute. Possible extension of Parent Plus pilot, which uses private sector to find jobs for lone parents. Will pay benefits at same rate to lone and married parents from April 1998.

Disability: implementing Disability Discrimination Act, which outlaw unjustifiable discrimination against the disabled in goods and services. New incapacity benefit should go only to people genuinely incapable of work.

Housing benefit: will reform so that people out of work have same incentives to take account of their housing costs as people in a job.

Fraud: new Fraud Bill will allow comparison of tax and social security records. New Benefit Fraud Inspectorate will monitor local authority performance in tackling fraud.

LABOUR



Pensions: state pension continues to be universal. Encourage second pensions with introduction of "stakeholder" pension. May integrate tax and benefits for pensioners.

Child benefit: may be scrapped for 16 to 18-year-olds still at school and paid as "educational allowance" to teenagers from poor families. Could be taxed for higher-rate payers.

Welfare to work: windfall levy will pay for 250,000 under-25s to come off benefit and into work. All young unemployed for more than six months will be offered jobs or training, and will have to accept or suffer benefit cut. National insurance holiday for employers to take on long-term unemployed. Job centres and benefit offices to merge.

Lone parents: those with school-age children will be helped to find a job. After-school clubs to help mothers match working hours with school hours.

Disability: review eligibility of Incapacity Benefit.

Housing benefit: welfare to work measures should reduce housing benefit bill.

Long-term care: currently "a lottery" depending on where people live. Develop national guidelines.

Fraud: crack down on housing benefit fraud by landlords with new offence of organised landlord fraud.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Pensions: basic pension will remain universal. Pension top-up benefits will replace Income Support for the age group. Retirement age will be flexible over a ten-year period.

Child benefit: universal child benefit until the age of 18. £5 increase per week per family, funded by phasing out Married Couple's Allowance.

Welfare to work: 50 per cent top rate tax enabling up to 500,000 to be taken out of the tax system at the bottom end and other measures to reduce the poverty trap. Simplified low income benefit. Benefits transferred to employer for first two years of employment.

Lone parents: encourage lone parents to work by providing nursery education for all 3 and 4-year-olds and extending tax relief on work-place nurseries to other forms of child care. Retain single parent benefits and reform CSA.

Disability: replace Incapacity Benefit with comprehensive support system. Increase support for carers.

Housing benefit: decrease contribution to poverty trap by removing it at a slower rate. Provide loans for people to pay deposits on tenancies. Introduce a new Mortgage Benefit to provide 100 per cent assistance to low-income families.

Fraud: support the Government's Fraud Bill, although concerned about the civil liberty implications of data matching — records being compared across departments.

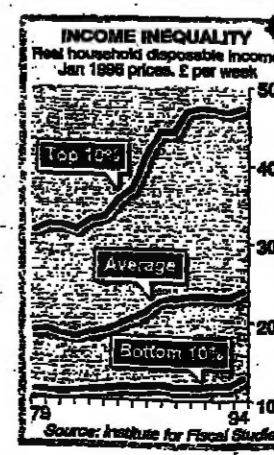
INCOME INEQUALITY

Most households in Great Britain receive some form of social security benefit, rising from 74 per cent of homes in England to 81 per cent in Wales. In Greater London, the North and North West of England, 24 per cent of homes are so poor they rely on means-tested Family Credit or Income Support.

The annual budget of the Department of Social Security is £91 billion. It costs every worker £15 per working day. Fraud is estimated to cost £3 billion a year.

The gap between high and low incomes grew rapidly in the United Kingdom in the 1980s but has remained stable in the 1990s. The poor are socially mobile — most of those who were in the lowest fifth of the population by income in 1991 had escaped into the top fourth by 1994.

Because of unemployment and the increase in lone parents, the proportion of children in a home where no one earns anything has



risen from 18 per cent in 1979 to 31 per cent in 1993-94. The rise in all households where no adult of working age receives a wage was 8 per cent, to 17 per cent.

Six in ten male employees in Great Britain are in an occupational pension scheme while nearly three in ten have a personal pension. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are the ethnic group least likely to have extra provision for old age.

allet adds



Advertisement text, partially obscured and difficult to read.

Advertisement text, partially obscured and difficult to read.

Advertisement for the opening of the State Rooms in 1997, mentioning Buckingham Palace.

Ballet adds a finishing twirl to the beautiful game



Paul Gascoigne celebrates with a recreation of the "dentist's chair" drinking incident and Jürgen Klinsmann takes a dive to mark a goal



Clissold Park Rangers raise the level of celebration with a choreographed routine

IT WAS an exceptional display of choreography — especially considering the venue. On the windswept wastes of Hackney Marshes in east London, the Sunday footballers of Clissold Park Rangers raised goal celebrations to new artistic heights after scoring against Dax Automatic, their Thames League Third Division rivals.

As the ball went into the net the jubilant Rangers ran forward, lifted their triumphant striker aloft and paired off in a series of balletic lifts, spins and twirls that would not have been entirely amiss on the stage at Covent Garden. The manoeuvres, designed to bring new standards of creativity and discipline to the art of football celebrations, got two performances yesterday in a match that was drawn 2-2.

Pre-match training under the tuition of Kate Brown, a modern dance choreographer, enabled the Rangers to bring a touch of class to their celebratory rituals that their untutored rivals could not match. Ms Brown had been recruited by the football magazine *FC* to coach the Rangers in more imaginative and artistic ways of expressing their joy at scoring.

Although one attempted *pas de deux* crumpled ignominiously in the trampled mud of a gale-swept Pitch 17 after Rangers' first goal, the second performance was, everyone agreed, almost as satisfactory as the second goal itself. "Goal celebrations have been getting more and more imaginative," Peter Freedman, *FC*'s editor, said. "Synchronised celebration is emerging as a performance art, not unlike formation dancing."

"All football is structured improvisation in movement,"



Robin Young, a former ballet critic, reviews the style of a Sunday soccer team that has taken to choreographing its scoring celebrations

said Ms Brown, as she set about explaining her vision of the Rangers' celebratory future. "We are looking for a shared vocabulary of movements in response to unpredictable events."

Ms Brown, a founder member of an Irish dance group called the Hairy Marys, was chosen to raise the standards of Clissold Park Rangers' hitherto ragged and rather occasional celebrations because her previous work included an avant-garde fusion of football and dance.

That was performed partly by dancers and partly by footballers, first on a football pitch and then in a theatre. It was called *Over Two Legs*, to echo the concept of football as a "game of two halves".

Clissold Park Rangers were chosen as beneficiaries of her expertise, not because of any exceptional scoring ability (they are half way up their league at present, but already out of the cup), but because their captain, Clive Bury, is a journalist and one of *FC*'s contributing editors.

Another team member is Ivor Baddiel, brother of the comedian, David. "You do not need *Fantasy Football League*, when this is going on," he commented, as he practised lifting a hefty teammate as though he were the lissome dancer Darcey Bussell. "This is fantasy enough."

The goal celebration craze started with Roger Milla provocatively shimmying to the corner flag when he scored for Cameroon in the 1990 World Cup. It took definitive hold in Britain when Jürgen Klinsmann first performed his swallow-dive before the crowd after scoring for Spurs.

Since then there has been Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli pulling his shirt over his head, Lee Sharpe's Elvis Presley impressions at Manchester United, Paul Merson's elbow-bending drinker imitations for Arsenal, Paul Gascoigne's re-enactment of the dentist's chair drinking bout scandal and Chelsea's gladiatorial poses. Non-league clubs rushed to improve on their seniors' efforts, most famously with Aylesbury United's duckling waddle, and Kingstonians' "dying fly" routine.

"Whatever the professionals are up to, the Sunday league players try to imitate," Michael Jacobs, publisher of *FC*, said. "There is something pretty ridiculous about doing

tion routine should involve the whole team, and her suggestions were well received by the players, though their efforts as a *corps de ballet* were much handicapped by uneven conditions underfoot and a howling gale.

"I feel like a star. I love it," said striker Silvio Krsini, a coffee bar supervisor, as he was lifted by his team-mates a ninth time in practice sessions. The choreographer might have missed a trick, though. The most notorious episode in Clissold Park Rangers' short career to date is the goal

Michael Baker, a barrister in his day job, scored against Dax Automatic last year.

On that occasion he deflected the ball into the net with what footballers traditionally refer to as the "groin". Staggering around the pitch clutching their crotches might, after all, have been more within the Rangers' Terpsichorean abilities than the relatively complicated co-ordinated contact improvisation techniques Ms Brown chose to adopt.

Football, 25-31

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Dancer: Kate Brown

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هكذا من الامثل

THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 1997

Beach yields mass grave of shipwrecked slaves

BY NICK CONSTABLE AND KAREN FARRINGTON

A MASS grave containing the bodies of shipwrecked slaves has been uncovered on a holiday beach after Atlantic storms.

Up to 60 bodies are thought to lie beneath the rugged cliffs of Rapparee Cove in north Devon, where the treasure ship *London* foundered with all hands 200 years ago.

An archaeological team has begun excavating the site near Ilfracombe, which has yielded dozens of bones and three perfectly preserved teeth. Yesterday the first iron fetters were discovered in the shale. During the past 20 years several gold and silver coins thought to have come from the *London* have been found in the cove.

Experts believe that the grave is the largest burial ground of slaves discovered on the British coast. The bodies were apparently considered heathen by the locals and unfit for Christian interment.

Skull bones emerged three weeks ago but the dig could not begin until police had



Pat Barrow at Rapparee Cove, Devon, yesterday with bones from the drowned 18th-century negro slaves

established that there were no suspicious circumstances. Scientific tests have confirmed that the skulls are of African descent.

The dig is unlikely to solve all the mysteries surrounding the 300-tonne barque, which

had been chartered as a transporter by the Admiralty during the French Revolutionary wars.

She was thought to have been bound for Bristol with her booty and 60 French black slaves captured during Gen-

al Sir Ralph Abercromby's Caribbean campaign. On the afternoon of October 9, 1796, the ship's master, Captain Robertson, approached Ilfracombe seeking shelter from a gathering storm.

Pilots rowed out to help him to dock but he tried instead to moor to a buoy at the mouth of the harbour.

According to a later account by a Captain Chiswell, held in Ilfracombe museum, one pilot shouted: "Where are you from?" Robertson, described as a "ruffian captain", was said to have screamed back: "From Hell, bound for damnation."

His ambitious manoeuvre failed and the ship, with its prisoners chained in the hold, was dashed against the rocks. Chiswell wrote that the ship contained five treasure chests, only four of which were recovered.

He described the cove as "covered with the bodies of negroes" and recorded that the corpse of a young woman, "a naked fly fair", was also washed up.

The excavation will concentrate on a ten-yard area of the cliffs which has been eroded



"From Hell, bound for damnation": a contemporary impression of the *London* sinking outside Ilfracombe harbour

by winter storms. Pat Barrow, an amateur archaeologist who is co-ordinating the dig for Ilfracombe museum, has spent 25 years researching the *London's* history. He believes the slaves were officially listed

as prisoners of war. Britain's abolition of slavery was still 38 years away, although by the early 19th century liberal politicians were campaigning against it.

Mr Barrow said: "There's

no doubt the skipper could have sold the slaves, probably at Bristol, if he'd wanted to. It is unclear why he was so reluctant to dock at Ilfracombe. The reports of the time suggested the wind would

have been favourable. I believe the skipper was worried that local people would discover the slaves in his hold and try to release them. This area had a very strong religious tradition."

Households may have to pay £100 for retuned TVs

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO million households face charges of up to £100 to have their television sets retuned to cope with the advent of Channel 5.

With 35 days to go before the station's launch, a survey conducted by Continental Research shows that only 42 per cent of homes in London have been retuned to prevent interference.

The £150 million retuning programme, which began last August, is also lagging behind its targets in other cities. Jim Cavanagh, who co-ordinated the survey for ITV companies, said that while retuning appeared to be going well in as Yorkshire, other areas were flagging.

He estimated that so far 6.5 million homes have been retuned, against the 7.7 million that Channel 5 is claiming. "Original estimates indicate that 8.8 million homes would require retuning prior to the company being cleared for a national launch. Hence with only five weeks to launch, there are possibly 2.3 million homes still requiring attention," he said.

Retuning is necessary because the broadcasting frequency to be used by Channel 5 is in some areas very

close to the frequency to which many video recorders are tuned. In some places, the Channel 5 frequency is also close to the part of the spectrum occupied by the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. If the frequencies used by broadcasters are too close to each other, interference is caused.

Channel 5, Britain's first mainstream station to be launched in 15 years, is obliged by law to provide free retuning — but only for three months after its launch. After that, the responsibility — and the cost — falls to the viewer.

One Channel 5 retuner from London, who asked not to be named, said that although retuning was simple on most equipment, he would probably charge at least £25 to do the job. He expected that other retuners might charge up to £100.

Another retuner from Bristol said: "We are way behind our targets in the South West but I am sitting on my backside all day because the administration is not working."

Rules laid down by the Independent Television Commission require 90 per cent of homes in any one area to be retuned before the station can go on air in that locality.

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هكذا من راصل

US puts 'modest' \$35bn price tag on Nato expansion

By TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE White House, facing growing Russian opposition to the swift expansion of Nato, today presents a report to Congress designed to bolster American policy and calm critics at home and abroad.

Offering a moderate assessment of American costs for extending the alliance, the study on strategic security in Europe aims to send a message to Moscow that Nato forces will not establish large new military installations close to the Russian border.

"There would be no need to station substantial Nato forces on the territories of new members," the report says.

The Administration estimates costs for Nato expansion, including the upgrading of armed forces, integration into the alliance command structure and the collective air defence system, at \$35 billion (£22 billion) over the next 12 years.

During that time, the study

said, the United States was expected to contribute no more than \$2.5 billion, about \$200 million a year and a very small part of America's \$263 billion defence budget.

The report, obtained by *The Washington Post*, said the costs were variable but affordable and emphasised that failure to expand Nato would threaten the interests of the United States.

"It would diminish the alliance's relevance and vigour and would falsely revalidate Europe's old Cold War divisions at a time when Western policy is committed to overcome them," it said.

The cost projections only cover the first group of new members, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, which are expected to be invited to join Nato at the Madrid summit in July.

The report appears only weeks after George Kennan, the American eminence grise

of superpower relations, said Nato expansion would encourage anti-democratic forces in Russia and described the proposal as the greatest error in Western policy since the end of the Cold War. Other notable public figures, including Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, and a growing chorus on Capitol Hill have also voiced their concerns.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist leader, said during a visit to Washington last week that all existing arms limitation treaties would be suspended if the alliance were to extend itself towards Russia's borders.

Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, yesterday accused Nato of nurturing plans to wrest control of nuclear weapons from Moscow. He claimed the West was trying to use problems in the Russian Army as a pretext for bringing its nuclear arsenal under international control.



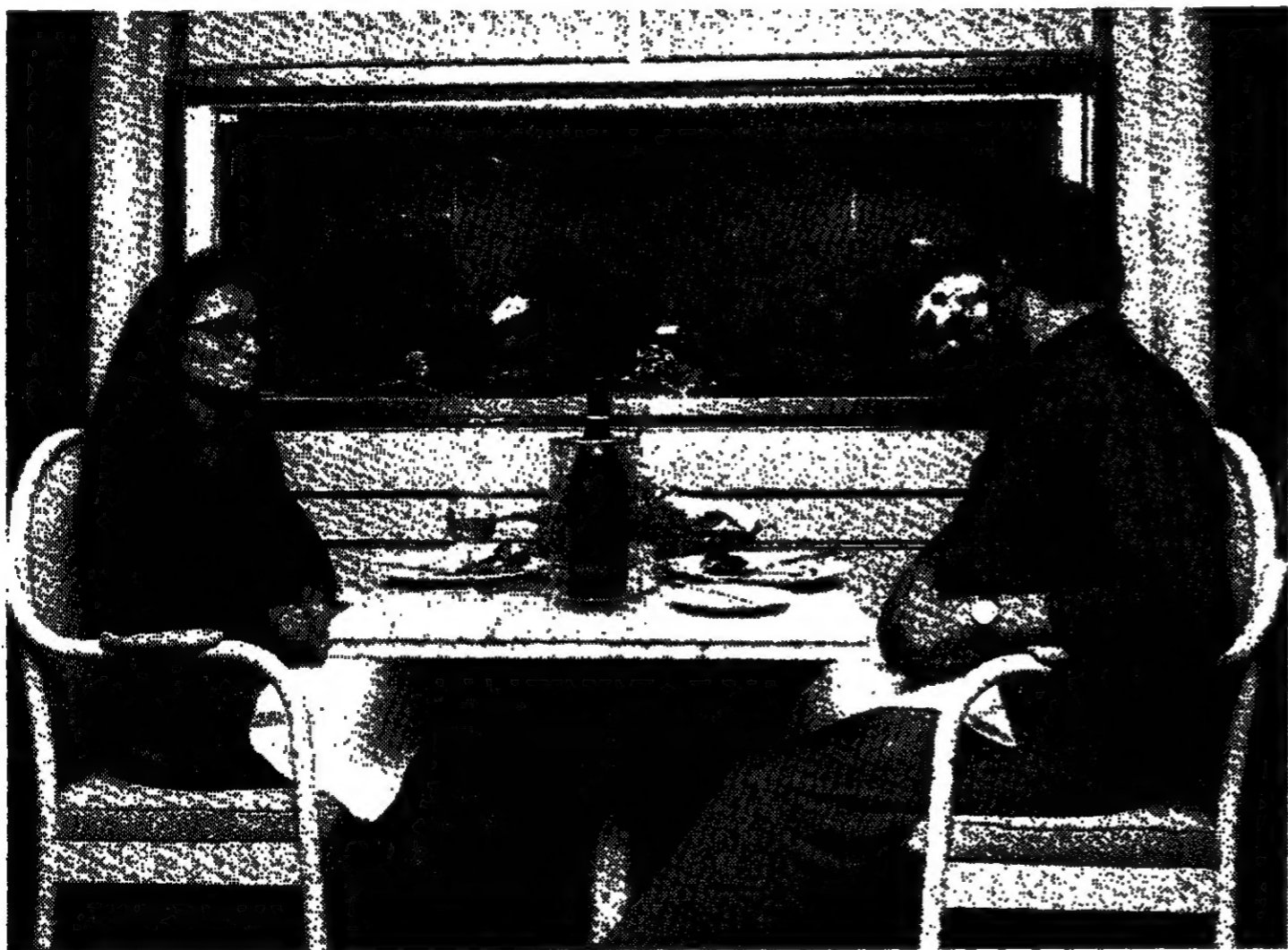
President Yeltsin talks to journalists close to the Kremlin yesterday in his first public appearance since the New Year. The Russian President, who was at a wreath-laying ceremony to mark Defenders of the Fatherland Day, said he was fully recovered from illness and ready to take on his opponents (Robin Lodge writes). "All that remains is to regain my strength," said the 66-year-old President who suffered a bout of pneumo-

Yeltsin makes a 'fighting' return

nia in January, just two months after heart surgery. Mr Yeltsin said he had lost 57lb, confirming the impression left by his gaunt appearance, which contrasts so strikingly with the hefty figure he cut in the past. Yesterday he walked steadily, although slowly and spoke clearly and energetically. Asked about recent

attempts in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, to have him removed from office on health grounds, he gave a warning that he was prepared to strike back. "This is a purely political, communist campaign," he said. "But they should know that I am a fighter and will remain a fighter. And they should be

careful not to attack me too hard, because I can hit back." Mr Yeltsin, who has been convalescing since his release from hospital, did not say when he would be returning to full-time work. Doctors treating him have advised him against hurrying to resume a full schedule. But other than a few token trips, Mr Yeltsin has been away from his Kremlin desk ever since his heart trouble in early July.



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Talk BT It's good to talk

Fears of Rock fall after rain in Spain

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A SERIES of avalanches in Gibraltar, each hurling hundreds of large boulders onto roads, tunnels and beaches, has prompted fears that the Rock's famed cliffs may be in danger of crumbling.

Although rockfalls are routine in Gibraltar, the latest examples have produced the largest tonnage of debris in the colony's history.

Torrential rains in December, which gave Gibraltar and the neighbouring Spanish region of Andalusia their wettest period since the turn of the century, appear to have greatly weakened the limestone cliffs, formed 20 million years ago when a tectonic shift caused Africa to collide with Europe.

Ten days ago, at Camp Bay, on the western side of the Rock, a large slab of cliff came hurtling down, blocking a tunnel which provides access to a popular beach. Earlier in the month, a rockfall near Cablan Bay, situated on the northeast near the water catchment area, was the scene of a disconcerting avalanche. Altogether, about 20,000 tonnes of rock are estimated to have fallen this year alone.

The Gibraltar Government has called in geological surveyors from Britain, who will submit their findings by the end of the week to the colony's chief civil engineer. Emergency measures will then be taken, including the use of wire nets to rein in rocks and debris.

Local experts, however, are anxious to play down fears of a "collapsing Gibraltar". Clive Finlayson, the director of the Gibraltar Museum, says: "The Rock will survive these avalanches, as it has done others in the past."

Dr Finlayson attributes the latest rockfalls to a combination of heavy rain and indiscriminate quarrying which took place at the turn of the century, when material was needed to build the dockyards.

Starr says Clinton's aide 'not murdered'

By TOM RHODES

VINCENT FOSTER, the close confidant of Bill Clinton found dead in a park outside Washington nearly four years ago, was not murdered and there was no cover-up by the President or Hillary Clinton, according to an unreleased report by Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor.

In an apparent attempt to restore credibility to Mr Starr's investigation after he first announced his resignation and then his decision to remain as independent counsel last week, his office appeared to have leaked the report to the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday.

The document claims that an exhaustive inquiry into the events surrounding Foster's death rejected repeated conspiracy theories that the former deputy White House counsel had been murdered.

The White House has consistently maintained that Foster, found shot at Fort Marcy Park on June 20, 1993, committed suicide and that his death was not connected with Whitewater investigations.

His death has remained the focus of numerous allegations ranging from murder to assaults by Israeli intelligence and the Whitewater prosecutor's report may do little to blunt continuing speculation that the Clintons were involved in a cover-up.



Foster: found shot dead in a park in June 1993

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The facts bel

New scheme launched to help people who get a raw deal from medical insurance

RESEARCH has shown that, among the 5.7 million in Britain with private medical insurance, one group tends to pay more yet claim less.

They are usually in one of the Professions or work for themselves. Generally fit and healthy, without being fanatical about it, they follow a responsible, healthy lifestyle, take exercise, are careful about their diet, don't smoke or smoke very little, and consume alcohol well within the recommended levels. Probably they have taken very few days off work over the years.

But, by virtue of their work, if illness should strike, they cannot afford to be away sick for any length of time, and most have families depending on them.

So they tend to opt for the certainty provided by fully comprehensive private medical cover. They find that so-called 'budget schemes' offer too many restrictions; such as no out-patient cover, private treatment only if the NHS cannot treat them within 6 weeks, or there is a restricted hospitals list.

But comprehensive schemes are not cheap and, like all medical insurance, the subscriptions continue to rise much faster than general inflation. So there is unease in this group, faced with a 'Catch 22'. Their work situation and personal responsibilities means they need more cover than a budget scheme would provide, yet their lifestyle make them far less likely to make claims.

This is precisely why Western Provident Association, one of Britain's largest and longest established private medical insurers, have designed a unique scheme specifically to meet the demands of this important group - the 2-4-1 health insurance plan.

WPA 2-4-1 gives two important advantages within one scheme.

Frees up money for other uses, and gives you the security you need.

The principle behind 2-4-1, like all good ideas, is very simple. It's called 'shared risk' and asks subscribers to decide how much responsibility they want to take upon themselves by paying a proportion of the annual cost of any private treatment from their own resources.

This has two important effects. Depending on how much subscribers choose to pay towards their treatment in any one year, they can save as much as 75% on a typical annual premium of the highly competitive Oak scheme - Western Provident's top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy. It is therefore an even higher percentage saving on other companies more expensive policies. For Western Provident's new 2-4-1 scheme provides unlimited cover for any costs over and above the subscriber's agreed shared-risk contribution. With the cost of an intermediate operation with a stay in hospital likely to be more than £5,000, this makes 2-4-1 a very good deal indeed. What's more, because 2-4-1 is restricted to people with a responsible attitude towards their health, Western Provident are confident that future price rises will be significantly less than other schemes.

Western Provident 2-4-1 at a glance

- You choose to carry part of the annual cost of private treatment. This can be the first £2,000, £4,000 or even just £1,000 for the year the policy runs. The saving on your premium depends on which figure you choose. £1,000 saves 33%, £2,000 saves 50%, and the maximum £4,000 saves 75% - all against the premiums of a comprehensive medical insurance policy. You can ask for your shared risk to be increased or decreased at each renewal time.
- 2-4-1 will provide unlimited cover for any cost over and above your personal liability, providing that the medical condition has not been excluded by our medical underwriters at the time of your application and your claim is within the rules of the plan.
- No medical examination is required, but you will be asked to complete an application form giving details of your medical history. 2-4-1 is available for married couples and families, but the shared risk is per person. Children up to 21 can be covered, but with a much lower shared risk figure of only £250.
- WPA will give you every assistance if you are moving to 2-4-1 from another insurer, but may exclude any existing medical conditions.
- 2-4-1 is not available to anyone aged 55 and over, but renewals will be accepted after this age.

For such an important decision, you may wish to know more. Please do not hesitate to 'phone us, without charge or obligation on the number below. We promise we will not contact you in any way, except at your request, but will send a confirmatory letter following your call. A trained advisor is available to visit you, but only if you ask for one.

Every WPA Policy carries this 4-point guarantee

- When you receive your policy documents, if you are in any way dissatisfied, you can cancel within 14 days with no obligations.
- WPA will never cancel your policy or raise your premiums on the grounds that you have made too many claims. You may make as many eligible claims as you need.
- You are entitled to renew your WPA policy every year, as long as you have abided by the rules and the policy is still generally available.
- In the unlikely event of a disputed claim WPA agrees to be bound by the decision of the Insurance Ombudsman.



Typical examples of 2-4-1

Dick Murray is in a professional occupation, in his early forties, married with one child, living in London. His annual 2-4-1 family policy premium would be £826 (compared to the £3,600 he would be paying now for a typical top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy) if he elected to take a £4,000 risk share. He would benefit from a saving of £2,774 every year.

Emma Jones is in her mid-forties, lives in the North of England, with 'Scale 1' London cover. The premium rates for 2-4-1 are determined by where you live and unlike most PMI plans you have access to all private hospitals - there is no restricted list. Miss Jones, if she opted to pay the first £2,000, would save herself approximately £1,200 on the cost of a typical top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy.

2-4-1 not only provides unlimited cover for any costs over their agreed contributions, but, because it is a top-of-the-range scheme, Mr. Murray and Miss Jones have access to over 650 hospitals nationwide, including some of the most famous establishments in London and the Provinces. (There are no restrictions on your choice of hospital).

Most people maintain a medical insurance policy for between five years and ten years. As 2-4-1 savings occur every year, Mr. Murray will save (assuming he remained healthy) between £13,870 and £27,740, and Miss Jones between £6,000 and £12,000, without any interest on these sums! This they could either save for their long term care, put into a medical savings account (msa), use for school

fees, top up pension contributions, or they could invest their savings to build up a nest egg with the interest.

For some, their annual 2-4-1 premium would be the same as they now pay each month for their top-of-the-range comprehensive medical insurance policy.

At the same time, they know the guaranteed limit of how much they might have to find in one year if the unexpected happens and they need medical treatment. 2-4-1 will pay any costs above that point.

Price Comparison of some Top-of-the-Range Private Medical Insurance (PMI)

| Company | Product | from | Price* |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| WPA | Oak | from | £ 908.16 § |
| Bupa | Bupa Care | from | £1,092.42 § |
| Prime Health | Primecare Plus Gold | from | £1,193.85 § |
| Clinicare | Claric Blanche | from | £1,382.64 § |
| PPP Healthcare | Platinum | from | £2,336.18 § |
| WPA | 2-4-1 with £2,000 shared risk | from | £ 259.14 depending on where you live. |

* Price based upon a single policyholder aged 40 next birthday. Excluding any excess premium reductions.
§ Source: Money Marketing December 1996

The facts behind the rising cost of medical insurance

"It is inequitable that subscribers who follow a healthy lifestyle and make few claims are faced with rising premiums due partly to claims by others. We were determined to find a solution. We've introduced 2-4-1 to give them a real choice.

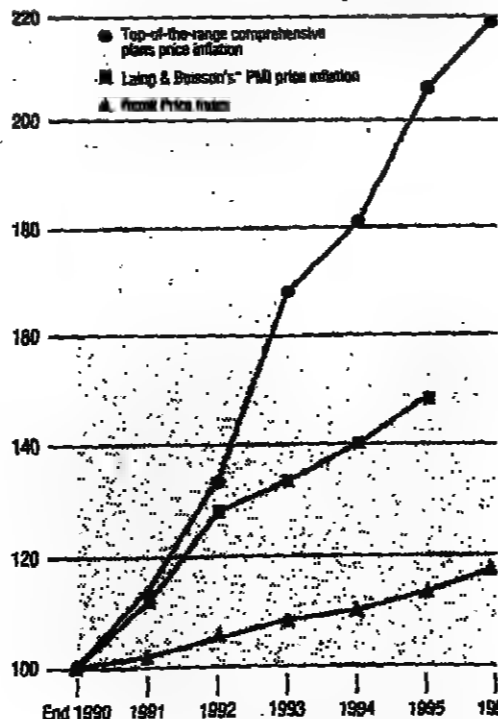
All those who join 2-4-1 will find themselves in a like-minded group of those who look after their health and mutually benefit by saving on their premiums."

- "Medical inflation" is considerably higher than general inflation. This is due to a number of factors.

- We live in an age of continual advances in medicine. Knee replacements, heart by-passes, cataract removals with lens implantations are just some of the now common-place operations. There are also major innovations in diagnostic techniques. But every medical advance creates extra cost.

- Because of these advances people are living longer and have higher expectations from

Increases in PMI Plans compared with RPI



Source: Jan Lawson, Private Health Partnership, Feb 1997
* Derived from Lang's Review of Private Healthcare 1996.
The index represents year on year changes in aggregate premiums earned by UK medical insurers divided by number of subscribers

medical care. This is the problem faced by the National Health Service, creating financial problems and waiting lists.

- The cost of private treatment has risen faster than NHS costs as there is no buffer of rationing by waiting lists. In fact, those with private medical insurance relieve the burden on the NHS and reduce waiting lists. 20% of all coronary heart by-pass operations are carried out privately.

- The growing expectations of a medical remedy for practically every ill, plus the funding difficulties of the NHS, means that people with health insurance now make more claims than ever before, particularly for minor illnesses and medical conditions.

- The principles of insurance are straightforward: the claims of the few are met by the premiums of the many. More claims mean higher premiums. 2-4-1 points the way out of that continuing situation.

You could be better off with 2-4-1...

You would certainly be better off with Western Provident. The medical insurer most people would recommend.

Western Provident Association has been providing funding for medical care going back to 1901. Although it has grown into one of Britain's largest specialist medical insurers with hundreds of thousand of people covered, it has retained its determination to make customer service paramount in everything it does. Western Provident is completely non-profit making, leaving any surplus funds free to improve both the benefits and service enjoyed by its subscribers. In every way, subscribers come first in Western Provident.

Western Provident leads the medical insurance industry for service.

In an NOP survey of private individuals with medical insurance, Western Provident was rated first above other leading companies for overall efficiency of service, satisfaction with claims, as the company they would most likely recommend, and jointly first for helpfulness of personnel and overall quality of service.

And that service is guaranteed.

- Every eligible claim will be settled within 7 working days. Otherwise, subscribers are compensated by £10. Not that that costs Western Provident too much: 99.5% of all claims were settled within 7 working days in 1996.
- You are also guaranteed that all letters are responded to within 4 days.
- When you ring Western Provident, your call will be answered within 3 rings and always by a person and never a machine. If Western Provident are very busy, you'll get an engaged tone. There's no queuing system while your phone bill mounts up.
- When you join 2-4-1, a team of Western Provident's staff will be assigned specifically to you. So you will always be dealing with somebody who knows you and your details.



That level of service has made Western Provident the only insurance company in the UK to have gained International Quality Standard BS EN ISO 9001 for everything they do. But people are even more important than systems. Suffice it to say that Western Provident hold the unique accreditation of 'Investor in People', twice - 1993 and 1996 for the selection, training and motivation of its staff. As a further point of confidence for their subscribers, Western Provident is the only Provident medical insurer to be a member of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau.

2-4-1

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 1997

Disgraced reformer Zhao barred from Deng ceremony

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

AMID tensions and uncertainties here, Zhao Ziyang, the former Communist Party chief deposed during the Tiananmen demonstrations in June 1989 for sympathising with student protesters, has been barred from attending the private cremation today of Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Deng's successor, President Jiang Zemin, 70, has refused a special request by Mr Zhao, who lives under a form of house arrest here, to attend the ceremony at Babaoshan Revolutionary cemetery, Chinese sources said yesterday.

It has been suggested that Mr Zhao might be released and again play a role in government, although he is in his mid-seventies. However, Mr Jiang may see him as a potential challenger.

Soldiers in green uniforms yesterday practised carrying an empty glass coffin at the cemetery in western Beijing. Two officials said the preparations were for Mr Deng's cremation.

After the cremation, Mr Deng's ashes will be placed in an urn and presented to his widow and children before the official funeral ceremony tomorrow in front of 10,000

party and government officials and military men in the Great Hall of the People.

Diplomats said the Government apparently wanted to see the nation mourning as one at official ceremonies, uniting behind the new leadership headed by Mr Jiang, a collective that has largely been running the country for the past seven years.

Heavy security was in effect in Beijing last night. Wreath-laying in commemoration of Mr Deng has been banned by state leaders concerned that demonstrations of mourning could turn into anti-government protests, as happened in 1976 and 1989. Several people have already been detained.

Deng Liqun, a veteran hardline ideologue who was critical of Mr Deng's reforms, has been excluded from the 499-member committee planning the funeral service at the insistence of the late leader's family.

Mr Deng's corpse is to be removed before his cremation. Madame Li Albright, the US Secretary of State, will arrive soon afterwards from Japan for talks with Mr Jiang, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, who is thought to have ordered the troops into Tiananmen Square in 1989, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister. Diplomats said it was a measure of how important Beijing regarded its relations with the United States that the Albright visit was going ahead, despite six days of mourning for Mr Deng.

Her visit — during which delicate issues such as the two Koreas, Taiwan, arms proliferation, intellectual property rights, human rights and trade, will be discussed — comes almost exactly 25 years after Richard Nixon, the late US President, made his ground-breaking trip to China and was received by Mao.



Zhao: request to attend Deng's funeral denied



Chinese soldiers carrying a glass coffin yesterday at Babaoshan cemetery in Beijing in rehearsal for the ceremony today at which Mr Deng's remains will be cremated

Last emperor leaves China with an empty throne

Deng Xiaoping made China a superpower but few believe his successors can fill the vacuum, James Pringle writes



THE first time I saw Deng Xiaoping was in 1973, in the Great Hall of the People, when he was suddenly restored by Chairman Mao after years in the political and geographic wilderness, to which Mao had consigned him during the Cultural Revolution as the "number two person in authority taking the capitalist road".

The "number one" such person, Lin Biao, then head of state, had been allowed to die in the basement of a government office in the central Chinese city of Kaifeng, without proper food and no medicines.

Mr Deng had survived working in a tractor repair shop and looked rather lost and harmless as he moved down a row of foreign ambassadors, number 12 in the Chinese leadership line-up, wearing a brown Mao suit, white socks and sandals. He would, however, go on to transform China into the superpower it is now.

Mr Deng lived in Half-Moon Alley in a functional

brick house, spacious but seemingly fairly modest, amid the ordinary *Lao Bai Shing* (old 100 names) as the common people of China are called. He was unpretentious. He never went in for a personality cult or smart Western suits and dyed hair like the present ageing leaders, who have not a grey hair among them though most are over 70.

Last week, when I broke the news of Mr Deng's death to a taxi driver taking me to Tiananmen Square, the driver took in the news with the calm by which it was received by most Beijing citizens, who nevertheless acknowledged their debt to Mr Deng.

Tiananmen Square was deserted. However, at the end of Mr Deng's lane three soldiers

in battledress and armed with AK47 rifles accompanied a policeman who peered into the taxi.

This was visible proof that the Deng era was over. A cartoon in Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* summed it up: it showed an armchair, with lace antinassars, an ashtray stuffed with cigarette butts, and an enamel spittoon which the diminutive Chinese leader used with relish, often to emphasise a point, after thunderous bawling; the armchair was empty.

Mr Deng leaves a vacuum. With Mao and Zhou Enlai, Mr Deng had repulsed the Japanese and restored China's place in the world. As Mao himself said in 1949 from the Tiananmen Square

rostrum: "China has stood up." After a brief interregnum of peace in the early 1950s, however, Mao introduced the horrors of the Great Leap Forward in which 30 million people died in a famine, and then the chaos of the Cultural Revolution.

It was Mr Deng who cleared up the mess and who has doubled the income of Chinese people in real terms over the past 18 years, making China rich and powerful, but he also cracked down on student protesters in June 1989 when hundreds were massacred. And it is in his name that Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, the human rights activists, are serving long jail terms for what a majority of countries regard as normal political activity.

Mr Deng's successors are lesser men, bland and sleek, who never fought in China's wars, and lack the legitimacy of Mr Deng, who is due to be cremated today without a lying-in-state or a funeral cortege with the masses paying their last respects.

The people, in whose name the People's Republic was founded, have been shunted aside, and only 10,000 hand-picked members of the Chinese nomenklatura will be present at a memorial service tomorrow in the Great Hall. The people, as Bertolt Brecht might have said, have been "abolished".

In fact after the Great Leap and the Cultural Revolution, it is hard to see what legitimacy the Communist Party has here at all, as Marxists who practise the "socialist market economy" are surely a contradiction in terms.

President Jiang Zemin, Mr Deng's chosen successor, has been running China as the "core" of the new leadership since Mr Deng faded into the background in the early 1990s. In the past year, Mr Jiang, 70, has been pushing a campaign called "spiritual civilisation" designed to reinforce the headline rule of the party for fear that communist rule in China will go the same way it did in Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

More than 2,000 people have been executed in the past year in a crackdown on crime, though not one has been among the high-level officials accused of corruption.

Most people are content just to follow the party line to keep out of trouble, in contrast to a decade ago, or even two years ago, when China was more open. Chinese officials often complain that China does not win Nobel prizes, but it is hardly surprising in a country where creative thinking is anathema to the state. After all, overseas Chinese scientists do well in the Nobel stakes.

"Deng was a ruthless old dictator, but he had vision and transformed China," one diplomat here said. "Suddenly the whole area at the very heart of the Chinese State has gone. There is just a great big hole there. Chinese have to follow the party line, but you hardly hear anyone say they are confident that the insecure men who have succeeded Deng are big enough to fill his shoes."

Hong Kong's Bill of Rights to be diluted

Beijing: China's legislature voted yesterday to water down Hong Kong's civil liberty laws, saying they contradict the constitution Beijing drafted for the territory after it returns to Chinese control.

Beijing has long vowed that it would gut the laws, despite protests from Hong Kong's democrats and Chris Patten, the Governor. The state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that the standing committee of the National People's Congress

voted to strike out 14 laws completely and to amend 10 others. The committee decided that Hong Kong's Bill of Rights, which guarantees freedom of speech and assembly and other civil liberties, would no longer have supremacy over other laws, Xinhua said. The committee said laws, Xinhua said. The committee said laws, Xinhua said. The committee said laws, Xinhua said.

Beijing claims that the Bill is no longer

needed because its rights are guaranteed by the Basic Law, the constitution that will take effect after July 1. Under the Basic Law, police approval will be needed for public protests and local groups will need permission to associate with foreign organisations. Congress said most of the existing laws will remain in effect. Many of the changes were cosmetic, removing references to the Queen or the word "royal", Xinhua said. (AP)

Pyongyang changes leaders

FROM REUTERS IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea may be in the throes of a power struggle, media reports suggested yesterday after Pyongyang signalled a major leadership shake-up.

In an apparent attempt to show that Kim Jong Il, the country's leader, was still in charge, Pyongyang Radio reported his first public appearance since the recent defection of Hwang Jang Yop, one of his closest advisers. Cracks have appeared in the hierarchy of the secretive Communist nation, which has already been destabilised by food shortages, since Mr Hwang's defection to South Korea's embassy in Beijing on February 12.

Kang Song San, the Prime Minister, was replaced last Friday. On Saturday, North Korean media reported that Choe Kwang, the 78-year-old Defence Minister, had died. The line-up of his funeral committee indicated that the three recent departures were just the latest in a series of exits among the ruling elite. The changes have added weight to speculation of a power struggle as Mr Kim prepares to assume the titles of President and general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party, which have been vacant since the death of his father, Kim Il Sung, in 1994.

There was no official explanation for the departure of Mr Kang, although he was known to be ailing. Mr Choe died of a heart attack.

The latest list of 85 names announced by the official media shows that up to a third of the top 30 positions have changed hands in the past two years.

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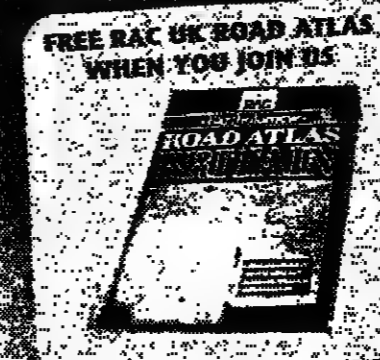
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مركزاً من رلاصل



Ekeus has won his own way over missile tests

Iraq will let UN take away missiles

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ has agreed to turn over missile parts to the United Nations, ending a long-running dispute with UN inspectors charged with destroying them.

Word of the agreement came in a joint statement yesterday after meetings between Iraqi officials and Rolf Ekeus, the chief UN inspector, who is visiting Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. Mr Ekeus has repeatedly accused Iraq of misleading his inspectors and has demanded that Baghdad allow the UN to test debris from destroyed missile engines in the United States.

Mr Ekeus has said Iraq may have removed and hidden Russian-built engines or engine parts and replaced them with virtually useless Iraqi-made pieces before destroying the missiles.

Sweeping UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq after Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990, prompting the Gulf War. UN diplomats have said they will not consider lifting the sanctions until Iraq co-operates fully with UN monitors working to dismantle Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles. The statement published yesterday did not say when the parts would be removed or where they would be tested. However, it made clear that the material would be put under UN authority. "Iraq agreed to the removal of remnants of prohibited missile engines," said the statement, which was signed by Mr Ekeus and Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister.

Mercenaries called in for raid on Bougainville rebel base

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

MERCENARIES have flown to Papua New Guinea to mount a covert military operation against rebel leaders on the island of Bougainville.

Up to 150 men have been training in the remote township of Wewak for the past fortnight in readiness for an attack on rebel headquarters. The Government decided to call on foreign assistance after failing to find a peaceful solution to the bloody, nine-year secessionist conflict.

Senior Papua New Guinea officials confirmed that they had hired mercenaries from Sandlines International, a subsidiary of Executive Outcomes, the South African-based firm, which is also represented in London.

The planned military operation could severely embarrass Australia, which provides more than £150 million of aid to the country.

Executive Outcomes was not available for comment last night. The origins of the company are unclear. A British intelligence report records that it was registered in the United Kingdom in September 1993 by Anthony (Tony) Buckingham, a British businessman, and Simon Mann, a former British officer. Mr Buckingham has denied any "corporate link". He is a veteran of the Special Air Service (SAS), a close friend of Sir David Steel, the

former Liberal Party leader, and apparently has extensive business interests in Angola and elsewhere.

In 1993 Mr Buckingham and Mr Mann met Eben Barlow, a veteran of the Angolan war and former officer in the South African Defence Force. During the apartheid years Mr Barlow also worked in the Government's "dirty tricks" department.

Mr Barlow, the head of Executive Outcomes, has been at pains to emphasise that his company will only assist legitimate governments. Operations in Angola and Sierra Leone have been wound up, leaving men available for operations elsewhere.

News of plans for a "surge" strike on Bougainville by foreign mercenaries leaked out during a visit to Papua New Guinea by Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister. Two military cargo aircraft which have been flying in troops and equipment for the past two weeks were spotted at the airport in the capital, Port Moresby, as Mr Downer arrived.

The planes were on charter to Sandlines International. Sandlines is best known for its sophisticated military operations in Africa and the company is also believed to have links with Malaysia and South Korea.

The Bougainville conflict is one of the world's least reported wars, although hundreds of people have died in the fighting since a declaration of independence by separatists in 1988.

Their action forced the closure of the giant Panguna copper mine, which is one of the biggest open-cast mines in the world, and accounted for 40 per cent of Papua New Guinea's export earnings.



Sydney: This is the moment a female worker at a wildlife park in northern Australia was attacked by a 15 ft long crocodile and miraculously survived (Roger Maynard writes)

Man rescues daughter from crocodile attack

Tourists watched in horror as Karla Bredt, who only minutes earlier had been feeding the reptile, was grabbed around the leg and then the waist after she fell.

As the crocodile, named Solomon, tried to pull her into the water, the 21-year-old park attendant's father, Joe, jumped on its back and gouged its eyes. He then grabbed a rake and beat the crocodile about the head in an attempt to force it to open its jaws. Last night Miss Bredt was in

intensive care at Mackay hospital in Queensland, where she was being treated for a broken pelvis, a fractured leg and internal injuries. The hospital said her condition was stable. Doctors said Miss Bredt's injuries would have been worse had Solomon not lost most of his teeth in fights with other crocodiles and because of a calcium deficiency. Miss Bredt, an attendant at the

family's Barefoot Bushman Wildlife Park in north Queensland, had been joking about the crocodile's lack of teeth with the audience only a few seconds earlier. "If I ever get grabbed, I'd rather it be this one," she laughed. "Then she slipped and it was on her." Rob Bredt, her uncle, said, "But she's a bright spark. As they pulled her out, she said, 'I'm bloody

glad he's got no teeth'." Mr Bredt said: "When Solomon grabbed her across the pelvis, the rake was doing nothing so my brother said, 'bugger it'. Joe was holding it around the eyes with the rake but it wasn't doing any good. So he jumped on its back in the water and he was wrestling it, trying to stick his thumbs in its eyes and finally it let go."

The family do not plan to destroy the crocodile, which is said to have a fairly placid nature. "He usually won't eat anything with bones in it," Mr Bredt added.

Miss Bredt told relatives last night that she wanted to return to work as soon as possible.

Zaire guerrillas take mining town

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KISANGANI

THE Zairean rebel forces of Laurent Kabila advanced further towards the northeast military headquarters here, taking another town and causing about 25,000 Rwandan refugees to flee into the forest, government officials said yesterday.

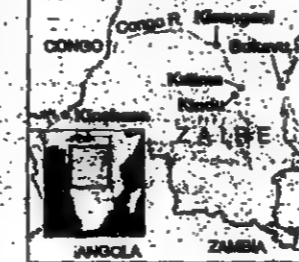
The Ministry of Defence conceded the town of Kalima, a small mining town about 180 miles south of Kisangani, to rebels on Saturday. "It is probable that the rebels have taken over control of Kalima," Likulia Bolongo, the Defence Minister, said in a statement. "What is surprising is the systematic chase of the refu-

gees by the rebels." Most of the refugees are Rwandan Hutus who have been on the road since the 1994 Hutu-orchestrated slaughter of a half-million Rwandan Tutsis. They are reluctant to return home for fear of reprisals by the Tutsi-led Government in Rwanda.

Refugee workers fear the guerrillas will go on to attack the 160,000 people in the Tingi-Tingi refugee camp, 150 miles southeast of Kisangani. Mr Kabila claims Zaire's Government has armed former Rwandan Hutu soldiers and militiamen among the refugees at the camp. Mr Kabila, whose fighters have captured a 900-mile strip in eastern Zaire, had threatened a new

offensive if the Government had not begun peace talks by midnight on Friday. International efforts to bring both sides to the negotiating table in South Africa appeared to be stalled again yesterday.

The rebellion in Zaire is aimed, at ousting President



Mobutu, whose 31-year dictatorship has left mineral-rich Zaire among the world's poorest countries. Mr Mobutu, who returned to France on Friday night, presumably for more treatment of his prostate cancer, ordered yet another shake-up of his military command before he left. He named General Mosaala Mondja Dongo as commander of the Lower Zaire region, replacing General Mulumba Ambote.

Leon Kalima, a defence spokesman, accused the rebels of going back on pledges to halt fresh attacks until peace talks in South Africa could begin. "Kabila says he wants to negotiate. Meanwhile he's continuing to attack."

Apartheid war expert rehired

Johannesburg: The Defence Ministry admitted at the weekend that the ANC-led Government had re-employed Wouter Basson — the man behind the apartheid chemical warfare programme and an alleged drug dealer — three years after he was dismissed (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The admission was made by Ronnie Kasrils, the Deputy Defence Minister, who said it was done "in the national interest". Mr Kasrils said it was the only way to "bring him under control".

Bus boys shot

Rio de Janeiro: Four gunmen murdered five street boys in front of commuters here. Witnesses said the boys, aged between 12 and 17, were dragged off a bus, lined up and shot for having no tickets.

Pacific rescue

Wellington: Rescue ships were heading for 25 people in lifeboats and a dinghy in the South Pacific after their trading ship caught fire in the Cook Islands group. There were no injuries. (Reuters)

Love in the air

Nairobi: A Belgian aged 21 was fined £100 here for loudly declaring his love for an air hostess on a flight from Amsterdam. He said he was from a strict Islamic family and had not had alcohol before. (AFP)

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More than 100 killed as fire breaks out at Hindu festival

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

AT LEAST 100 people died and hundreds more suffered severe burns in a fire that broke out yesterday at a Hindu gathering in the eastern state of Orissa.

The final death toll is still not known. While Sanjeev Hota, the State Home Secretary, put the number of dead at 100, some news agencies reported more than 200 fatalities. The Director General of Police in Orissa, admitted that "the toll is going up all the time".

A large number of bodies are still under the debris and the accident occurred in a remote part of the countryside.

The fire, fanned by strong winds, was apparently caused by an electrical fault. Within seconds it destroyed the makeshift meeting hall packed with devotees. Nearby straw-walled huts designed to serve as rest houses were also destroyed.

The religious conclave of about 12,000 people took place in the village of Madhuban, a few miles from the town of Baripada, and was held to honour Swami Nigamananda, the head of a religious sect, whose death is commemorated every year.

The devotees were largely poor villagers from the neigh-

bouring areas, including the adjoining state of Bengal. Baripada, which is about 1,250 miles southeast of Delhi, was overwhelmed by the disaster as the town has only two fire engines.

When the fire broke out people rushed in panic to the single exit. Many died in the stampede.

An inquiry has been ordered by J.B. Patnaik, the Chief Minister, who has announced that compensation of 15,000 rupees (£200) will be paid to the relatives of the victims. Doctors have been rushed from neighbouring towns to the site.

Helicopters rescue 93 in Thai blaze

Bangkok: Helicopters battled strong winds yesterday to pluck 93 people from the top of a blazing 36-storey building under construction in the centre of the Thai capital, police said.

Two others died and a third was seriously injured after they jumped in panic from the seventh floor of the President Tower. A fourth body was later found inside the building.

A helicopter pilot carrying three people to hospital narrowly averted further tragedy after the aircraft's rotor blade hit high-tension wires near the hospital. He made an emergency landing in a sports field nearby. (Reuters)



A worker is lifted to safety from the fire

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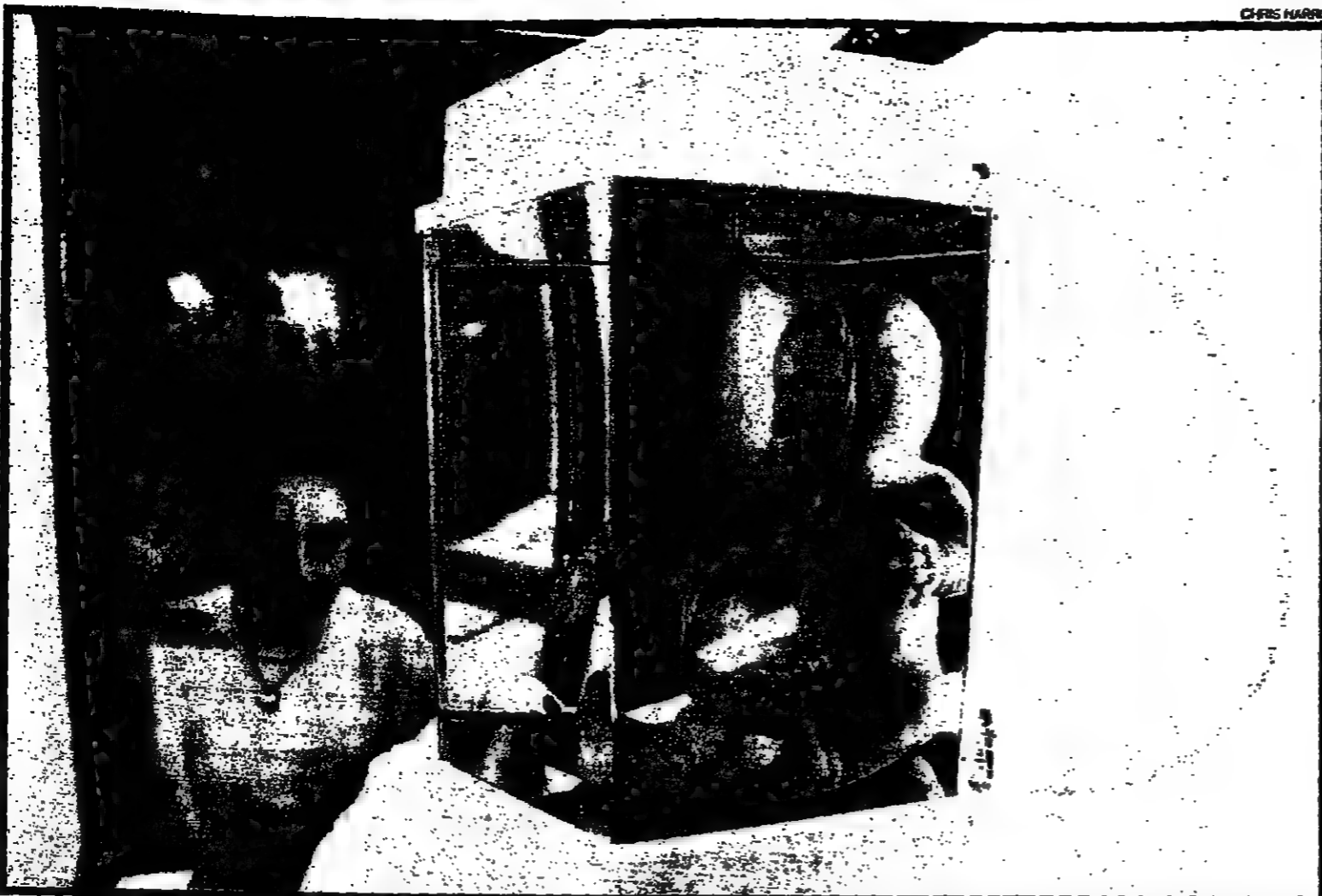
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The Genetic Choices exhibition at the Science Museum in London: insurers insist that testing does not raise the spectre of a genetic underclass

Paying a high price for bad genes

Hanging around the Science Museum in London may not be the most scientific way to conduct a poll, but within half an hour a clear consensus was emerging. The question was simple: should insurance companies have the right to know the results of genetic tests?

The Association of British Insurers ruled last week that people applying for life insurance would have to reveal whether they had taken a test, and, if so, disclose the results. However, the association declared that until 1999, people taking out life policies linked to mortgages worth up to £100,000 would not have to reveal test results. After that date, mandatory genetic testing might be introduced. Visitors to the *Genetic Choices* exhibition at the museum, which opened last month, were unanimous in their disapproval.

"It's not fair," says Barbara Rogers, 40, a special needs care worker from Milton Keynes. "If somebody has 'bad' genes it's not their fault, so how can it be fair to discriminate against them? My partner is a diabetic — these things just happen. I think this development would discourage people from taking tests in the first place."

Annabel Harle, 46, a translator from Cardiff, says the decision penalised those who were concerned about their health. "Many people want to take these tests so they can make the right life choices, or protect their children. It is dreadful that some people will be left out because of it."

"I think the insurance industry has to think carefully about what it is doing. After all, having the tests shouldn't necessarily make a difference. There is still the same number of diseases and the same spectrum of risk. People can still drop dead tomorrow. And, anyway, the insurance business is based on risk. By demanding test results, they would be getting higher pre-

miums for less risk." But last week, at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle, delegates heard the other side of the story. In a paper presented on behalf of the American Academy of Actuaries, David Christianson, the chairman of the academy's Task Force on Genetic Testing, argued that, to continue to exist, the insurance industry needs to operate on a level playing field. It depends on full disclosure to calculate how low it can set its premiums. High-risk individuals, who did not declare the full facts, would have an unfair financial advantage. If these individuals did not pay a premium reflecting their high-risk position, their inclusion would distort payouts, and premiums would have to rise across the board.

This, Mr Christianson predicted, would have a knock-on effect. "The healthiest people start dropping out because their premiums no longer reflect their risk status," he says. This would narrow the pool of risk, and mean that those taking out policies would probably be high-risk individuals, again pushing up premiums. This cycle of spiralling premiums might eventually topple the insurance industry. That seems rational enough, if slightly dramatic. Mr Christianson went on to set out why, in the academy's opinion, testing does not raise the spectre of a genetic underclass: insurance companies still need to insure people to make money, so are unlikely to turn customers away; stiff competition means that premiums will have to be reasonable; genetic testing may clear people previously classed as uninsurable, because of their family history; new treatments are always being developed.

"I feel the fears have been exaggerated," Mr Christianson says. "For one thing, there aren't many tests, and people who do test positive, say for breast cancer, are still able to get insurance at reasonable rates. My main concern is that people will choose not to be tested in the first place. How-



For life: will testing lead to discrimination?

ever, somebody has suggested the idea of mandatory genetic insurance, which you take out before you have a test. That insures you in case you do test positive."

However, the bottom line is that those with "bad" genes are likely to end up paying more than those with "good" genes. Onora O'Neill, a moral philosopher at Cambridge University, says in this week's *New Statesman* magazine: "Actuarial fairness seeks to place the costs of misfortune on the unfortunate, and this is quite different from placing the costs of bad driving on bad drivers."

Others maintain that such a policy is in operation already, since applicants are routinely questioned about their family's medical history and, in some cases, undergo cholesterol and blood pressure tests. The inclusion of genetic test results, say advocates, will simply make the whole procedure more sophisticated.

Dr Maurice Super, a consultant geneticist at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, begs to differ. Tomorrow he is opening the world's first Gene Shop, a drop-in centre aimed at educating the public on the issues raised by genetic testing. Dr Super and his colleagues have a "gut feeling of unease" over this issue, because people may shun testing if they think they may suffer financially. "It puts such a negative slant on testing," he

says. "There is great nervousness among certain groups of people who suffer genetic disorders. Some will be prepared to hide medical information from their doctors, so that their insurers don't find out. That is a terrible thing, and it all comes down to money."

Dr Super offers a different solution: raise everybody's premiums to subsidise those who are genetically unfortunate. "It may be idealistic, but if we live in a caring society, we should be prepared to subsidise others. In fact, we do this already with the National Health Service. The NHS would be in clover if we chose not to treat chronic disease, but we still do. We should show the same solidarity in the case of genetic testing."

David Freer, 52, who was taking his 10-year-old daughter Beulah around the exhibition, shared Dr Super's unease, and approved his idea of levying higher insurance premiums to avoid discrimination. But he acknowledged that there was an unfairness in penalising people "whose genes are okay".

The issues are complex and emotive, but there is concern that people are not sufficiently informed about this fast-moving field. "The tests are racing ahead faster than we can deal with the implications," says Mr Christianson.

Indeed, many are already coming face to face with the implications. At the Science Museum, I bumped into Rachel Rose, a 37-year-old mother of two from Amersham in Buckinghamshire. She had been refused life insurance: "I had a kidney transplant and am now on dialysis, which is why I can't get cover."

The relative who donated a kidney to me had to take an HIV test. The test proved negative, but they didn't tell their insurance company because of the fear of discrimination."

Additional reporting by Perry Cleveland-Peck

DNA worries □ Soyuz solution □ Innate tunes

Rogue heart risk

LAST year American scientists caused a flurry by announcing the discovery of a gene that makes its carriers old before their time. Sober observers this side of the Atlantic refused to get too excited, arguing that Werner's syndrome, the condition caused by the gene, is not necessarily a true model of normal ageing, and giving warning that the implications of the discovery had been exaggerated.

Maybe, but a result reported at the Seattle meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science does imply that the gene is important in the population at large. A team led by Dr Tetsuro Miki of the Department of Geriatric Medicine at Osaka University has shown that among Japanese, at least, one variant of the gene is strongly linked to the chances of having a heart attack.

Werner's syndrome, first described by the German physician Otto Werner in 1904, is a grim condition. Sufferers appear normal until adolescence, when they begin to age very rapidly. They stop growing, their hair turns grey, and they suffer the degenerative diseases of old age. The average lifespan of a Werner's sufferer is 47, and the commonest cause of death is a heart attack.

The gene responsible codes for an enzyme called a helicase, whose job it is to unwind the strands of the double helix of DNA by breaking hydrogen bonds that hold them together. This process happens all the time in cells, in processes such as DNA replication



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

and repair. Any failure in these mechanisms would lead to the slow accumulation of errors.

The new research, which has been published in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, compares the frequency of variants of the gene in a group of Japanese heart attack victims and a matched control group. The majority of the people examined have the amino acid cysteine at one position in the enzyme, while a minority have an alternative, arginine. This is caused by variants in the gene, and since we have two copies of each gene, this means there are three possibilities. We can have

helicase enzymes that contain only arginine or cysteine, or we can have a 50:50 mixture of the two.

Among the Japanese group, the great majority, 85 per cent, had the other two genetic possibilities: were much commoner among the healthy control group than among heart attack victims. Having either of these combinations appears to reduce your risk of a heart attack by a factor of almost three.

Dr George Martin of the University of Washington, a co-author of the study, says that it urgently needs to be confirmed in a different population. But the results do suggest, he says, that variations in the efficiency of DNA repair could contribute to the risk of heart disease. Says Dr George Roth of the US National Institute on Ageing: "It's fascinating that there is such a link, if it holds up."

Russian rocket may rescue Europe

THE Cluster mission, buried in a swamp in French Guiana by the failure of its Ariane 5 launcher last June, may yet rise again by courtesy of a Russian Soyuz rocket. Attempts to rescue the four-satellite mission to the

Earth's magnetosphere looked doomed for lack of money until the Soyuz idea popped up at a meeting last week of the European Space Agency's science programme committee.

The hope is that using Soyuz rockets would save enough money for ESA to pay for new Cluster instruments, normally the responsibility of the member governments. Several, including Britain, have said they cannot afford any new instruments, which had seemed to rule out a rescue for Cluster. If the figures work out, it will be the first time a Russian rocket has ever been launched from a Western site.

Birds born with a song in their hearts

BIRDS hatch from their eggs with their songs already ringing in their ears, says Dr Peter Marler of the University of California at Davis. Very few learn by imitation: the bulk seem to have their songs "hard-wired" into the

structure of their brains. Of 27 orders of birds, he told the AAAS meeting in Seattle, only three learn by imitation — parrots, hummingbirds, and passerines, which include the sparrow. And even sparrows seem to have a head start. From the beginning they respond to a wide range of short bursts of their own species' song. "They recognise even a small fragment — just a few notes of a song — even when they're only two weeks old," he said.

A similar mechanism may underlie human babies' remarkable ability to learn language, lending support to the view that the language instinct is innate.

Eat fish, tan safely

If you are planning to bask in the Caribbean sun this summer, eat plenty of mackerel before you go. A new study at Liverpool University has indicated that the polyunsaturated fatty acids (pufas) found in oily fish can act as an internal sunblock. The researchers are now embarking on a more detailed study, funded by a £60,000 grant from the World Cancer Research Fund.

Intrigued by a study last year showing that pufas could protect against damage to muscle by destructive chemical groups called free radicals, Peter Friedmann, professor of dermatology, wondered whether eating the oils could protect against skin cancer. "Free radicals are also implicated in skin damage and skin cancer," he says.

He used a simple guide — the redness associated with sunburn, which is a measure of skin damage. He first exposed volunteers to ultraviolet (UV) light and measured the result. Volunteers were then fed capsules containing pufas. When subjected to the same dose of UV light three months later, the volunteers suffered less sunburn. Ten capsules a day for three months gave the same protection as a factor three

Anjana Ahuja
on an intriguing way to avoid sunburn

suncream. Slight side-effects were nausea and flatulence. "It's not the same as using a factor 20 sunblock, but a threefold increase in protection over a lifetime is extremely significant," Professor Friedmann says. "The process involved in sunburn is the same that induces skin cancer over a long period of time. We later came across similar research on mice, which showed that pufas could protect against not only skin cancer but also against carcinogens."

That's because free radicals cause damage to DNA, which can induce cancerous mutations. "The commercial spin-off could be tremendous — the active chemical could be incorporated into a margarine."

The new study will look at damage to DNA and genes, both excellent markers for skin cancer. The 75 volunteers will be split into three groups. One will be fed fish oil capsules. The other two groups will be given other oils which do not contain pufas. One remarkable effect, Professor Friedmann says, was the improvement seen in people who suffer from sun-induced skin rashes. "Some have come out in the daylight for the first time." Initial results are expected next year.

Is there or is there not a MALE MENOPAUSE?

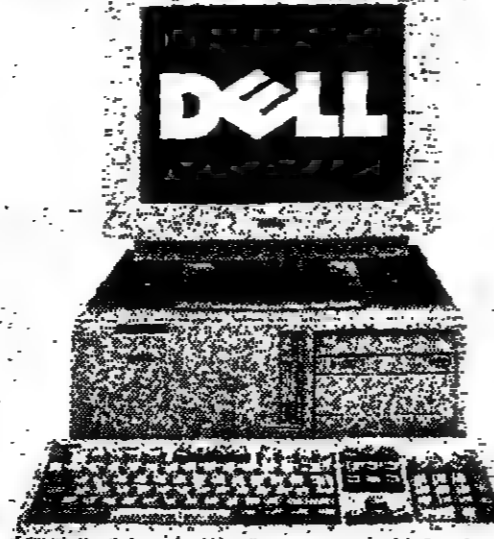
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Rent-a-bed Washington

Life in the US capital is in such a state of flux that even the furniture is rented. Bronwen Maddox reports

It's all rented. I find myself saying as people come into the living room. But if they live in Washington DC, there is no need to explain. They know rented furniture when they see it.

Alan Clark would not approve, having damned those who buy their own furniture rather than inheriting it. But in the transient community of the American capital, there is a camaraderie among those of us who rent not just our houses but our chairs, beds and cushions.

"It's quite a sassy, New York sort of thing to do, not a provincial Washington thing," says one British diplomat, who finally graduated to owning his furniture. He flatters our tribe, though, which is less exclusive than he implies.

On dinner parties in the suburbs, I find my eyes sliding past my host's shoulder; I feel instantly at home if I see a grey-and-white striped sofa, the twin of the one in my living room. And I catch myself thinking it lucky I didn't hire the lamp with a transparent base as you can see the gnarled electric cord running through it.

A week before I moved to Washington in September, a World Bank friend confided: "You don't need to spend your first weekend buying a sofa. Ring Cort Furniture Rental." I duly dialled the number of "America's national furniture rental company", and was swept up into America's frontier culture, where no one thinks it strange that you might move to a new country with just a couple of suitcases of clothes.

Washington, a town where the only industry is politics, exerts its pull on many professionals only for a few years. Politicians and their aides may be here for as little as two years. If they are members of the House of Representatives, although senators are guaranteed at least six. Then there are 180 embassies, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund with more than 8,000 staff, as well as 3,000 foreign journalists and hordes of lawyers, lobbyists, and consultants.

That flux lends the town an artificial atmosphere. Like the first

week at university, everyone is playing house: people welcome guests with a self-conscious grin, while fumbling with the unfamiliar locks on their front door. Anxiety about securing the "right" dwelling runs high: new arrivals fretfully weigh the Chevy Chase neighbourhood against Bethesda, or defensively cite a third baby as the reason for living in unfashionable Virginia. Few resist the fantasy that the New World will bring a new persona. "We've done *bijou* in London; over here, we want to do Dallas," one househunter announced, explaining her craving for plate-glass walls.

For me, though, finding a property was eclipsed by the furniture

glossy leather suite, rather like the office of an ITV sales director a month after retaining the franchise.

We rejected also the smoked glass furniture of a 1980s-style bachelor flat, and the tableau of a Washington power couple embracing each other in a book-lined dining room. Alas, the couple's clothes were not for hire.

But the effort paid off. When American estate agents say "unfurnished", they mean it: I arrived to find the house stripped of toilet paper, telephone books and ice trays. The only loose objects were magnets on the fridge door bearing the logo "Emergency pest control". Nor was there lighting apart from 15-watt electric candles mounted in pairs on each wall, with bulbs flickering in the erratic current. It looked like a Gothic dungeon, and I fled to the Halogen lights of a nearby hotel.

Then the furniture arrived, and the place was transformed. I readily admit that the sofa and chairs have a municipal air; their large, square cushions are made of a peculiarly springy foam, and even a hefty man leaves no impression. It also took three attempts to find a

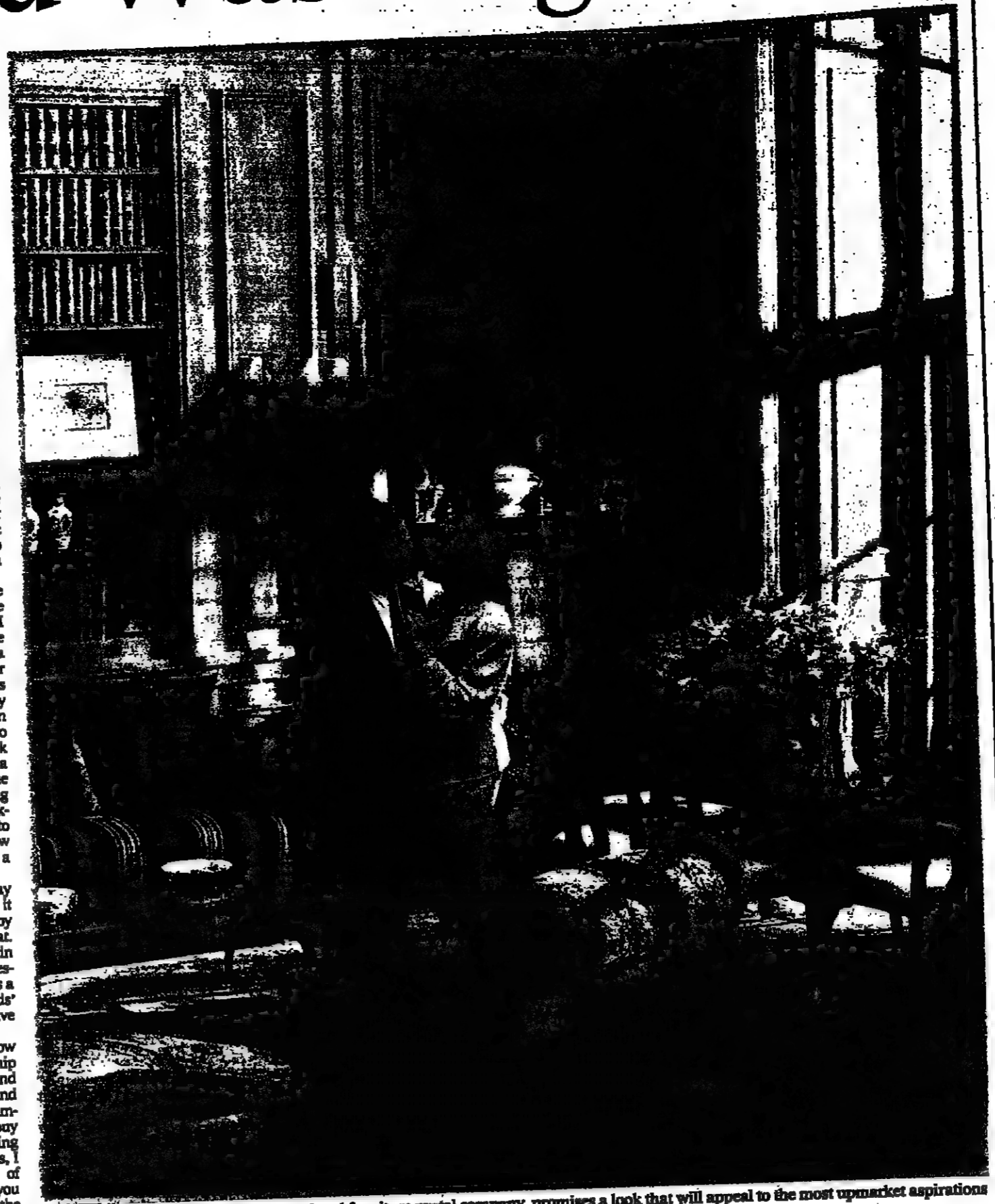
kitchen table that fitted, to the point where Cort began initiating the call: "This is Pamela speaking. I just thought you'd like to know that we'll be getting a new table in stock, mahogany with a kind of European look to it."

Nor is renting cheap: I pay about £200 a month. At first it seemed a bargain, judged by British yardsticks such as Habitat. But furniture costs half as much in the United States, where aggressive shopping for the best price is a religion. My American friends pursed lips let me know that I have broken the rules of their faith.

To their approval, I am now weaning myself off Cort. The ship carrying my crates from England is about to dock in Baltimore, and no doubt I will make the pilgrimage to the out-of-town malls to buy the rest. But after years of owning and repairing household objects, I will miss the brief freedom of having none: the sense that you can send it all away, get back in the covered wagon, and roll on.



Cort says assembling a household is effortless



Cort, which claims to be America's national furniture rental company, promises a look that will appeal to the most upmarket aspirations

Mailer and an Almighty row

Just when you thought Norman Mailer, the gaunt, angry, elder statesman of American letters was settling for mellow retirement, he produces his most outrageous book: a first-person account of the life of Jesus Christ.

Married six times and a relentless self-publicist, Mailer has always courted controversy, whether as a bar-room brawler (he famously punched Gore Vidal at a party after, he claimed, his fellow writer had called him an "old Jew"), political radical or aspirant wife-assassin (he stabbed his second wife with a pen-knife).

But this time Mailer's restless quest for novelty seems to have carried him too far. "Only a megalomaniac like Mailer would have the audacity even to attempt to speak in Christ's voice," says Stuart Burrows, a writer and critic at Princeton University. "The only surprise is that Mailer has chosen to write as the Son of God, not the Almighty Himself. It's a bad business."

Although *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* will not be published until May, it has aroused the hostility of Christian fundamentalists and the evangelical Right, many of whom have denounced it as an insult and blasphemous without having read it. These are but the first skirmishes of what might become a protracted holy war, similar to that which engulfed Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, a film that depicted Christ on the Cross fantasising about making love to Mary Magdalene and bringing up a family.

Random House, Mailer's American publisher, is cautious and guarded on the book: its spring catalogue simply says "As we go to press, Norman Mailer has just given us a short novel that is certain to be one of the most extraordinary and exciting books of his exceptional career." There is a photograph of Mailer but no mention of a title or the subject of the book.

While reluctant to discuss the matter before publication, Mailer issued a pre-emptive statement: "My intent is to be neither pious nor satirical; it is, instead, to make comprehensible for myself what Fulton Oursler once called 'The

A book on Christ's life is evoking cries of blasphemy, says Jason Cowley

Greatest Story Ever Told' ... I don't wish to arouse interest that cannot be satisfied at this point."

Mailer's long-time editor and friend Jason Epstein told

The New York Times: "He [Mailer] invented his version of Jesus, which seems to me to be true to the original and at the same time an original creation ... Norman's more of

a risk-taker than most of his contemporaries. He's famous for the risks he takes. And this book should be seen as an event in his life."

In a recent interview Mailer described himself as a veteran of "emotional and spiritual wars". At the age of 73, his most bitter battle may have just begun.

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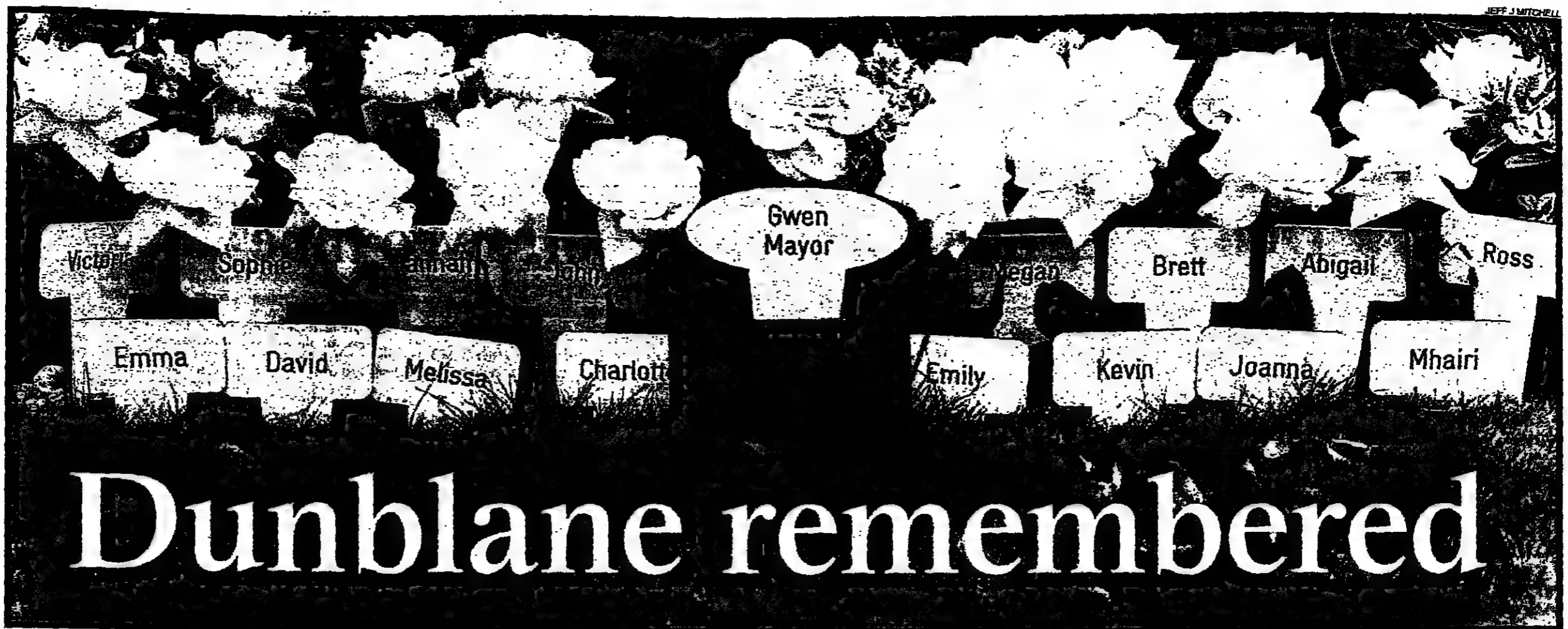
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Dunblane remembered

The lost generation of Primary One — cards bearing the names of the 16 children who were murdered by Thomas Hamilton almost a year ago surround the grave of their teacher, Gwen Mayor. Little Ross Irvine's card is on the far right

The anniversary is looming, like a storm on the horizon. Alison Irvine does not know quite how she is going to face it. She has talked and thought about it endlessly, but the nearer it comes the more it disturbs her. She is aware that the only way to cope with a nightmare is to confront it resolutely, to remember the horror, to face it out. That's easy to say, less easy to carry out in practice. She and her husband Ian decided some time ago to go on a holiday which will keep them away from Dunblane until just before the day itself. But now she doesn't really want to leave. She would prefer to be at home despite, or perhaps because of, the memories, and the pain they carry with them.

They will both be back in Dunblane, however, on March 13. They will return to the school where their son Ross spent his last moments. They will go to the cemetery where the other children are buried, and then they will travel to Ayr, where his grave is.

"It's something we have to do," says Alison. When she goes, she will be coming to terms with another and complex set of emotions. Over the new year, she discovered, to her amazement, that she was pregnant, expecting twins. One part of her reacts with joy. Another is overwhelmed by something close to guilt. "I feel disloyal. It can't compensate, Ross is."

Alison is half-American. Her husband Ian is a project manager at the nearby Motorola plant. She speaks in an attractive Scots-American accent as she tries to describe the grief and suffering that has overwhelmed her



Magnus Linklater

family in the course of the last year.

"Everyone is different in the way they handle grief," she says. "Even husbands and wives find it hard to see the other's point of view. Some people talk about trying to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But for us it's difficult to see anything ahead. There have been many comments made about what you should be doing, about finding the way ahead and so on, but it's difficult for other people to understand. I feel myself becoming more and more worried about the anniversary and everything it symbolises as the time approaches."

Ian and Alison's five-year-old son Ross was one of the 16 children shot by Thomas Hamilton in the gymnasium of Dunblane Primary School on March 13 last year. Although the Irvines' house is right next door to the school, Alison heard nothing that morning. She was not even aware that anything had happened until someone told her that there had been a shooting incident and that she and Ian should go to the school. For

One year on — the young couple who lost a son and are still struggling to create a future

most of that dreadful morning they sat in a small room, waiting to be told whether their son was alive or dead. They did not even know which class had been attacked, or how many had died. The incident had taken place at 9.30, but it was not until three that afternoon that they learnt the truth.

"I am suspected," says Alison. "I just went on hoping."

Ross was the elder of their two children. Scott, his brother, was one year younger. They had been inseparable, a loud and boisterous couple of boys in a family which, as Alison sadly recalls, was in all respects as unexceptional as it was possible to be. "We were a normal family; husband and wife and two boys. We worried about normal things. My husband worried about his career, was worried about money, about whether we should be changing our house. Things like that. I remember the Christmas before last, in December, watching a TV programme which had Anton Mosimann on it, and he and his two boys of about 18 were sitting around a Christmas tree. And I remember thinking what lovely boys they were, and thinking that in time that could be me and my two sons... Then suddenly we were at sea. We had no future."

Scott was convinced that Ross had gone away in a blue car the Irvines had recently exchanged. He kept on asking where his brother was. "He has a vague idea what has

happened but he doesn't take it in. He misses his brother a lot."

Ross was buried away from Dunblane in the family graveyard in Ayr. Ten days after the shooting, Alison and Ian went back to the school, where they met the teachers who had been there on that day and who had done their best to protect the boys and girls of Primary One. Everyone was in tears, promising support and sympathy. But the Irvines have not been able to go back since. "It worries me," says Alison. "We're right by the school, we hear the children at break, and the school bells ringing. But I haven't been able to go there."

You are in shock to begin with. You feel the full brunt of everything. When you're in shock, you're cushioned from facing the future. Then it dawns on you over the weeks and months that Ross is not going to come back. It's daunting. We've had to realise that Ross is never again going to be a part of what we're doing. All those months and years will go on without him. It's hard to think of them. It's not necessarily worse now, just different. Grief doesn't go away.

Between them they have read as much as they can about how others deal with the loss of a child. "We're avid readers. We both lost our fathers young to cancer, so we know about bereavement. But

"The Compassionate Friends (a bereavement group) helped. They're a group of people who've been bereaved themselves. What they say is spot on. But I don't go to their meetings. I'm quite a private person. I haven't spoken to many people. I got the impression that the psychologist felt that I should have been coming along faster. But the way I was raised was to have a stiff upper lip, put on a brave face. Inside I feel able to do that. I feel able to be on my own. It's the only way I could have dealt with it. Ian says I should speak to more people. To begin with I talked the better it is. But he doesn't want to discuss it as much. He has a chance to speak to other people at work."

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, Ian took two months of work. Then he went back gradually, feeling he needed to do something to give his day some structure. But over the months he has begun to feel it increasingly a

strain. Alison wonders how long he will be able to keep it up.

Now something else has come into Alison's life which has turned it upside down — the discovery that she is expecting twins. "I almost fell off the scanning table in shock," she says. There was no history of twins in her family, and her last pregnancy had ended in a miscarriage, so the news came as a bolt from the blue.

To begin with, she did not know how to react. "I'm full of conflicting emotions. When this happened I was stunned — especially having twins. One part of me thinks I'm being compensated for losing Ross. But then I'm annoyed. I don't want to be compensated. I want Ross back. I feel disloyal having another child. It can't compensate. Ross is dead. But then again I think if I didn't have them I would be disloyal as well to his memory. After all, it

is a positive event. If Ross had been here he would have been over the moon at having two girls — I'm sure they're going to be girls. It's something to occupy our thoughts with. Things like, should we change house? Better than that it should never have happened."

Despite that astonishing news, there is still no getting away from the all-pervasive, corroding influence of grief. As she tries to come to terms with it, Alison is increasingly anxious to try to define it, to convey what it feels like for her.

"There seems no future to us as a family, when one of us has gone. You wonder how you can manage. There's such a wide range of emotions. Sometimes you feel violent anger. Sometimes it's suicidal tendencies. You keep going because you have to go on — or take a decision not to. You don't think too far ahead. Grief is a very personal thing."

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OPERA

Catrin Wyn Davies is Gilda in Welsh National Opera's revival of Verdi's *Rigoletto*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

Birmingham Royal Ballet celebrates the Sixties with Kenneth MacMillan's *Song of the Earth*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

In Leicester, Kathryn Hunter becomes the first woman to play Lear on the professional British stage
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

If public libraries did not exist, then who would be bold enough to invent them today? They are one of the few democratic and available civilising influences throughout the land. Everywhere they are free and yet everywhere they are being put in chains. Bullish proposals from Virginia Bottomley and Iain Sproule seem to me like shakedown promises to cover a consistent lack of support for our unique and beleaguered library system. Fig leaves are everywhere in their latest pronouncement, but the nakedness of the Government's library policy cannot be camouflaged.

For instance, there is great insistence that libraries commit to the Internet. This is considered by the Heritage Department — rightly in my opinion — to be of multiple benefit to libraries, not least in bringing in new and younger users and extending the basic information access which is a keystone of our library service. Let there be an Internet, says Mrs Bottomley — and yet the libraries

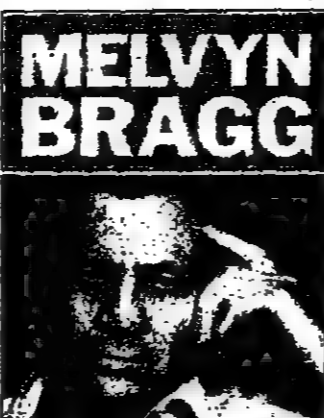
Don't keep our libraries on borrowed time

bid for that very facility has just been turned down by the Millennium Commission, which has surely got something to do with Mrs Bottomley.

It seems almost wilfully cruel to urge the libraries to do something while denying them the means. An amount of £50 million was requested to wire up every library in the United Kingdom to each other and to the Internet. Not as much as was given to the Royal Opera House (good for them); not much more than Sadler's Wells achieved (ditto); and far less than the massive welcome bounty to museums and galleries just announced. Yet libraries extend to every part of the UK. They are and have been the site for students and browsers and readers of all brows for generations. They need as much encouragement as any opera house or museum, so why has the

jewel in our country's crown, the palace of wisdom for Everyman, been turned into a Cinderella? Could it be that they are not sufficiently fashionable, being so easily available? Fashion exercises a terrible tyranny. It is far grander to dispel largesse to a glittering institution than to a library on an estate in Blackburn or Bristol or Brentford. Could it be that I can honestly think of no other reason for this rejection?

Especially when you look at the libraries and lottery funding. If you want to build a new sports hall or new theatre you can get help from the lottery. If you want to build a new library, you can't. Libraries are not eligible. Knowledge is of no importance compared with sport or drama. May we ask why? Some of the new government proposals on libraries can only be interpreted as bluster.



Libraries should be open all hours, they argue. Everybody agrees, including librarians who would willingly work shifts if they were properly paid. But, of course, there will be no extra money. Libraries

can buy more books, we are told, because of the ending of the Net Book Agreement. But surely someone must have whispered to the speechwriter that in one county alone the other week book funds were cut by £1 million; that in Northern Ireland all libraries have had their book funding cut by 50 per cent; that T.C. Parries in the Borders — one of the great library suppliers — has called in the receivers.

Free libraries are the cheapest and fastest way to offer knowledge and the pleasures of the imagination to all on equal terms. It is a noble ideal which should not be allowed to gutter out. It is not difficult to refurbish the library system. Then it could be a wonderful engine for the new Britain, which needs to learn to change and to change through learning constantly. Libraries could be in

the vanguard of the brain development, essential to our future. Instead, they are left off every agenda. If some of them look shabby, no wonder. They have been shabbily treated.

It could be very different. Last autumn I was in Lincoln for the official opening of a redevelopment of its Central Library. It is added on to the charming Edwardian structure designed by Reginald Blomfield. The result is inspiring, as much a revelation as the archaeological works that accompanied the redevelopment. Stock has gone up from about 50,000 items to about 95,000. From last June (when it opened) to October there was an increase in the borrowing of children's books of 80 per cent and an overall increase of 44 per cent in items lent to the public. Internet access — the

first in Lincolnshire for the general public — has drawn in many new library users.

It is a pleasure to be in the library, to walk around, to pull books from the shelves, and all those I talked to confirmed this. It is a thoroughly modern place which has books as its bedrock but reaches out to future information technologies, as it must. It puts the library back in the centre of the community. It is a bold move by Lincoln County Council, but, alas, a rare one — Carlisle is another such which comes to mind. These back the trend, which is clearly towards inadequate provision and dwindling stock and eroding service due entirely to lack of care, attention and resources.

Lincolnshire is what can be done. It hums with the quiet purposes of the mind. Would that this hum could penetrate the thick walls of the Department of Heritage with a love of libraries. For, if they do not both exemplify and carry out the purposes of heritage, then what does?

Better second time around

Any fears that the Jonathan Miller-Giorgio Armani staging of Mozart's comedy might have been a one-off exercise in designer chic were set to naught by Friday's revival. Taken all round it was better than when new two years ago: better conducted, more evenly cast, even more sharply directed by Miller himself, returning to take charge of two separate casts for the run of nearly a dozen performances.

The production is funnier, the humour lasting further into the second act than it did last time, which makes the pitch-black ending all the more shocking. It is also, in the best sense, a heartless production, as heartless as the librettist Da Ponte, which is something of a relief in that a heartless, more Mozartian interpretation can be well-nigh unbearable. The full-length mirror set centre-stage, into which the singers cannot resist gleaning, says something very pertinent about the element of narcissism in most productions of romantic love.

To some extent productions have to choose between being misogynist or misanthropic, and Miller properly opts for the latter: his wine bar yuppie heroes return in disguise as

OPERA Così fan tutte Covent Garden

slack-jawed, shambling parodies of US macho, Kurt Russell and Kevin Costner to a tee. Hilarious though they are, the upmarket rag-trade sisters surely deserve better. All of which raises the problem that won't quite go away: the closer the singers get to the world of Armani, the further they are from Da Ponte's syntax.

There are two dazzling comic performances. Rainer Trost (Ferrando) is not only a neat comic (his Kurt Russell parody is spot-on), he is an absolutely brilliant actor *tout court*, catching the character's ambivalence to perfection. His blank-eyed despair after Dorabella's defection was fearful to behold, and he certainly had me fooled into believing he was starting to mature during his seduction of Fiordiligi — but no, in the next scene he was the same heartless git that he was before. And once past a slightly strained *Un aura amorosa* he sang very beautifully as well, with coppers, mellifluous tone.

Alessandro Corbelli's re-

fully deadpan Alfonso, benign rather than malevolent, eyes wide open with mock-innocence, is another brilliant character study; he too sings smoothly, and naturally relishes the Italian text.

The women are more conventional, sympathetic and affecting. Soile Isokoski (Fiordiligi) is latest in the current line of Nordic sopranos with pearly, even voices and faultless techniques. Both her arias were extremely well sung, and she blended perfectly with the bright mezzo of Helene Schneiderman, the sharp, lively and likeable Dorabella. William Dazeley's forthright Guglielmo — he was recruited from the alternative cast to stand in for an ailing Bo Skovhus — and Lillian Watson's practised, endlessly resourceful Despina completed a well-chosen cast.

The Viennese conductor Dietrich Bernet drew silky sound from the orchestra and took a generally genial, sunny and singer-friendly view of the score. His overall pacing was cunning: *Così* can seem a long opera, but not on Friday. A very engaging evening, then: those who can't get in to the theatre should catch this cast live on BBC2 on March 8.

RODNEY MILNES



A sympathetic duo: Soile Isokoski (Fiordiligi) and Helene Schneiderman (Dorabella) in Jonathan Miller's staging

Send in the clones

GENETIC engineering has obviously progressed further than we thought. How else to account for James Hunter's skill at appropriating the voices of the young Bobby Bland, Ray Charles and Sam Cooke? The British singer-guitarist must be the creation of some demented scientist, driven to despair by the synth-and-drum machine pap that currently masquerades as rhythm and blues.

But Hunter is no lumbering Frankenstein's monster, nor another vapour exercise in retro kitsch. As the Jazz Café's floor filled with dancers, he and his well-drilled band supplied an

unshowy programme, laden with saxophone riffs, which evoked the unquenchable spirit of Stax, Atlantic and all those other pioneering labels. If Alan Parker ever makes a sequel to *The Commitments*, Hunter deserves to be first in line at the auditions.

After working with Jimmy Witherspoon and the self-styled "King of Rock and Soul" Solomon Burke, he delivered a persuasive collection of original material and cover versions on his album *Believe What I Say*, released last year. Another of his former employers, Van Morrison, made a guest appearance on the disc; Hunter also held his own in a duet with the gospel diva Doris Troy.

Onstage, between crisp guitar breaks, Hunter keeps the soul flame alive, while his treatment of the Ray Noble ballad *The Very Thought of You* is carefully understated. The cheeky-chappy interludes between songs (shades of Joe Brown) make the alchemy even more mystifying.

Lon Shaw approached similar terrain from a jazzier angle in his absorbing solo date at the newly enlarged Pizza Express Jazz Club — perhaps the best room of its kind in London these days. His affectionate tribute to Ray Charles traced the career of Brother Ray with the accompaniment of sonorous church and blues chords at the piano.

Shaw — who has just released an astute collection of vintage material, *The Echo of A Song* — possesses a jazz-soul pedigree that allows him to do full justice to so protean an artist. *One Mint Julep* received a suitably funky reading, and Makin' Whoopee had leers aplenty, in keeping with Charles's own version. And Shaw managed very well without the help of a band, or a nubile clutch of Rascals.

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CONCERTS: Medieval and modern music in London; and a romantic epic in Manchester

Enigmas old and new

Philharmonia / Salonen
Queen Elizabeth Hall

"WHO dares wins" is not a motto that always works in the concert hall. But Saturday's instalment in the Philharmonia's Ligeti festival was such a bold and crazy piece of programming that it deserved to succeed.

And it did, in two ways. If you had told me that the way to pack the Queen Elizabeth Hall was by prefacing a piece of 20th-century avant-garde music with an hour of 14th-century vocal music, I would have raised an eyebrow. If you had gone on to claim that the medieval stuff offered weird parallels to the surreal vocal world created by György Ligeti six centuries later, I would have raised the other.

Which only shows what a dismal promoter I would make. The logic of the link proved to be as stunning as the quality of the performances. First, Christopher Page's Gothic *Voices* toured the vocal scene, c.1350: a repertoire of exquisite but baffling beauty, in which poetic conceits of love and loss are dressed up in music of astounding mathematical ingenuity. Gothic Voices were suave rather than impassioned; but this very coolness underlined the music's mystique. We can understand the "how" of the virtuosic techniques used by Machaut and others, and relish the sounds, without having a clue about the "why". They are gripping enigmas.

And so are Ligeti's frantic tragicomedies, *Aventures* and *Noctuelles*, which also take virtuosic vocal techniques on a mysterious tour. Here, however, the techniques are vintage 1960s: the three singers (Phyllis Bryn-Julson, Rose Taylor and Omar Ebrahim, all terrific) hiss, screech, belch, giggle, gargle and growl, while a few players (expertly directed by Esa-Pekka Salonen) present a shadowy backcloth that has its own riddles (for example, a percussionist dropping a tray of crockery).

Again, the "why" is unclear. But that's the point. This is a shift on human discourse: the chatter which fills our life, yet gives it no meaning. Just once the singers stop, sensing that somewhere out in the instrumental haze is the meaning they seek. Then they get bored, or frightened, and gabble on. Brilliant stuff.

RICHARD MORRISON

Stunningly sober first

Hallé / Rozhdestvensky
Manchester

ONE way to get through Rachmaninov's First Symphony — as Alexander Glazunov apparently did when he conducted the first performance in St Petersburg in 1897 — is to make a few cuts in the score and get drunk before mounting the podium. Another way — as Gennadi Rozhdestvensky did in Manchester a few days short of a hundred years later — is to cut even more of the score and stay sober.

Rozhdestvensky's advantage over Glazunov, apart from his unimpaired reactions, was that he could hear in the First Symphony the many anticipations of the mature Rachmaninov in his 24-year-old composer was to become. The massive cuts he made in the second and fourth movements severely reduced the coherence of both of them. It is true. On the other hand, his affection for the work was always apparent, not only in his unembarr-

assed advocacy of what Rachmaninov himself described as his "bombast" but also in his phrasing of the melodic line. The melodies never quite take the authentic Rachmaninov shape but, inspired by the conductor's eloquent technique, the Hallé Orchestra offered a very plausible illusion.

The only Rachmaninov item in the programme originally advertised was the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. It was fair enough to replace Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* with this century performance of the First Symphony but perhaps a little unfair to exclude Sibelius's *Night Ride* and *Sunrise* and to open the concert with Rachmaninov's early fantasy, *The Rock*; instead, certainly, it was unwise to include so much immature Rachmaninov in the same concert.

The presence of the super-mature *Paganini Rhapsody* did much to compensate, however. When a conductor and a soloist know each other as well as Rozhdestvensky and Victoria Postnikova, they can afford to take risks. It was largely the element of danger that made the performance so exciting. This was the first time that Rozhdestvensky has conducted the Hallé. It was surely an experience they will want to repeat, and so will the audience in the Bridgewater Hall.

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The language of hope

Jonathan Sacks prescribes an old antidote to new despair

On March 13, 1996, Thomas Hamilton walked into the classroom of a Dunblane primary school and shot dead 16 young children and their teacher. It was a shocking tragedy, stark and unrelieved. For days the media could speak of little else, but even hardened commentators found it difficult to know what to say. It was a tragedy that swallowed words and robbed them of meaning.

Nonetheless, during those days of mourning, I could not help but notice another and quite different aspect of the national response. Throughout Britain there could hardly have been an individual who did not share in the mood of grief and loss. I felt it wherever I went. These were children we did not meet, yet we were caught up in their tragedy as if they were neighbours and friends. For a moment I caught sight of Britain as it is, not as we often think it to be. This was not a nation of individuals living disconnected lives in pursuit of self-interest, but a people united by a sense of fellow-feeling and kinship, joined by a covenant, unarticulated but still immensely strong, of shared suffering and fate.



We have delegated too much of what matters most

Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and others believed that individuals could act together on the basis of a contract which brought into being a state. This was a great error. For without trust there can be no contracts, and without moral relationships there is no trust. I believe that collectively we have delegated away too much of what matters in our lives: to governments, police forces, judges, courts, social workers, managers, teachers, therapists and gurus, each of whom, we suspect, can manage our affairs or conflicts or emotions better than we can. This was understandable, but in hindsight it was wrong. When my car breaks down, I take it to a mechanic because he can diagnose the fault and put it right faster and more accurately than I can. But my car is something I own. My life is something I am, and in handing much of it away I am diminished. There has been prolonged public debate about the rights and wrongs of giving away part of British sovereignty to a European parliament. But there has been almost no debate about the unprecedented handing over of sovereignty over large tracts of our lives to other agencies and experts. It has happened exactly as de Tocqueville predicted it would, slowly, tacitly and without resistance. When the system breaks down, we are liable to despair, because our destiny now rests in other hands, not our own. That is when the politics of delegation must turn again to the politics of responsibility, and of moral insinuations.

Morality is the antidote to despair because it locates social change at a level at which we, as individuals, can make a difference — in the acts we do and the relationships we create. Its problems are unlike those of politics — the environment, for example, or the economy or a choice of government. A day's work or absence scarcely affects the gross national product. A single vote rarely makes a difference to the outcome of a general election. That is not to say that these things, and our participation in them, are not immensely important. They are, but to have an effect, our decisions must be reached by a million others not under our control. By contrast, a promise kept, a kindness rendered, praise given, understanding shown: these touch the lives of others and may change them. Certainly they change us.

Morality is the language of hope, for it presupposes that in a critical respect, man is not a part of nature. Because we are speakers of a language we are capable of imagination, of envisaging a reality other than that currently present to the senses. So, for us, there is a difference between "is" and "ought", between the world we observe and the world to which we aspire, and in aspiring begin to make. None of us can make that world alone, but we are not condemned to live alone. Nor, if we are part of a moral community, are we dependent on the whims and passing interests of others. Marriage gives permanence to love. Loyalty gives strength to parenthood. Education becomes a conversation between the generations. Kinship and covenant link us to our fellow human beings so that they know they can rely on us and we know we can rely on them.

If our moral environment is in a state of health, we are surrounded by family and friends, colleagues and neighbours. We know that they will be there for us and we would be for them. In its most human and yet most religious expression, it is trust that lies behind the words "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me".

It may seem naive to suggest that the recovery of hope through the re-moralisation of society can solve problems that have defeated some of the world's most powerful governments. But it did so in the past — in 19th-century Britain and America, and at other moments of social crisis. I find it moving that the Judeo-Christian tradition, predicated on the sanctity of life, the priority of right over might, and the imperatives of justice and compassion for the vulnerable and disenfranchised, has survived for almost 4,000 years, while the great empires which persecuted its adherents have crumbled and vanished. Societies built on trust have a resilience and adaptability that no political order alone can create. That is why totalitarianism on the one hand and libertarian cultures on the other initially dazzle, but rapidly expend their energies and inevitably suffer death through decadence.

To be a Jew as the 20th century closes is not to speak lightly of hope. But neither is it accidental that the Hebrew word for hope — *Hitkavah* — gave its name to the national anthem of the reborn Jewish State. The fact that Jews and Judaism survive today is sufficient testimony to the strength of the human spirit, for what Jews can do, so can others.

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"Tomorrow: the common good. The Politics of Hope will be published on March 6 (Cape).

The constitutional proposals of the Labour Party do nothing to make up the democratic deficit

I am not sure that Tony Benn would wish to be compared to Edmund Burke, though they both once sat for Bristol seats. In Thursday's Commons debate on the constitution, he was wearing a tie in honour of Tom Paine. There was, though, a passage in his speech of true Burkean eloquence. "People who cannot be disposed of on polling day do not have to listen to anyone. When I go to Chesterfield, every street-sweeper, doctor or home help is my employer, but if a Commissioner goes to Chesterfield or anywhere else, he is above it all... I am the member for Chesterfield and proud of it, but I know that my constituents own the powers that I exercise. I do not own them. I cannot borrow the powers from them and give them away."

These two principles are the basis of representative democracy. The legislator must be accountable, and he is so only if he can be removed. The legislator derives his power from the people, and is not entitled to alienate that power, though it may be delegated on a temporary basis. These principles should be the starting point for the discussion of constitutional issues. They bear on the three main matters of the debate: devolution to Scotland, Wales and possibly to the English regions; the House of Lords; Europe.

The devolution issues must be seen in the context of the conflict between different democratic structures: in the case of Scotland the danger is the conflict of jurisdiction between the proposed Scottish parliament and Westminster. The House of Lords and Europe raise different issues: in both cases the problem is that the existing structures are not democratic at all.

In the case of the Lords, the Labour Party takes objection to the hereditary element. The trouble is that the life peers are also unelected. We have no constituencies; we do not have to refer to any public opinion; we have not been elected by any popular vote; we are appointed for life; we cannot be removed; we are

answerable to nobody but ourselves. The Labour proposal is to replace the present mixed House of Lords with a House composed solely of appointed persons. This does not answer the democratic objection at all. The relative importance of the Lords as a revising chamber follows from its lack of democratic roots. The Lords do not represent the people of Britain. That is what allows the Prime Minister to claim, as he did in opening the Commons debate, that "this House is sovereign".

The Commons is indeed sovereign relative to the House of Lords, except in those matters reserved to the Lords, which include their own procedures, their judicial function and any proposed extension to the life of a Parliament. There the House of Lords is sovereign. Yet John Major should beware of claiming the sovereignty of the House of Commons since so large a part of its power has been handed over to the European Union, much of it by the Treaty of Maastricht which he signed and put through Parliament.

Peter Shore reminded the House how far this power has already gone: "In a written answer on January 28 this year, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster revealed that 236 statutory instruments enacted European Community Directives in 1992. There were 134 in 1993, 198 in 1994 and 211 last year. These statutory instruments are equivalent to Acts of Parliament — they are not regulations. I maintain that the input of Community legislation into Britain is probably greater than that of domestic legislation." If Britain were to join

the single currency, and accept the ultimate authority of the non-democratic European central bank, Europe would dominate economic policy as well as this detailed legislation.

Like the House of Lords, the EU is an undemocratic body. The European Parliament, which is indeed elected, neither introduces nor carries legislation. The power to propose lies in the Commission, an appointed body which no electorate can remove. The power to decide lies with the Council of Ministers, an intergov-

ernment legislation on police and crime, reinforces the need for a revising chamber. As John Major said in the debate, "unicameral government" has been "the object of suspicion to every democrat for centuries". Reform of the Lords has been promised for more than 80 years. Perhaps it will be begun in the next Parliament, but the Labour proposal is so undemocratic as to be useless.

Europe, which is much the most important constitutional issue, could develop in one of four ways. Britain could regain full democratic rights by leaving the European Union and signing a trade treaty similar to that with Norway; the EU could become a looser trading association, perhaps after a failed attempt to create a single currency; Europe could become a single state, but with a democratic constitution, perhaps with an elected president or with government by the European Parliament or Europe could develop along the present lines to become a single state under a bureaucratic constitution. The first three of these outcomes are compatible with democracy. Unfortunately, the present constitution of the EU is bureaucratic: it is no more democratic than the House of Lords.

In the debate on devolution, John Major rightly pressed Tony Blair for an answer to the so-called West Lothian question, which the Prime Minister put in this form: "How could Scottish members in this House continue to legislate on matters in England, if English members had no control over the same matters

in Scotland?" Early in his speech Tony Blair said: "I can answer it and I will": towards the end of his speech he said: "Let us turn from the West Lothian question." These were the two pieces of toast inside which the West Lothian question was supposed to be wrapped. But inside the sandwich there was no beef. Tony Blair promised to answer the West Lothian question, and later implied that he had answered it, but he never did so: one can only assume that he does not have any answer. That makes Labour's proposals for a Scottish parliament a leap in the dark.

No government in history has survived unless it could take effective decisions. That has been true under authoritarian as well as democratic constitutions. Decision-making powers have already been surrendered by Westminster to the EU under a non-democratic constitution. The Labour Party's proposals would transfer other powers to a Scottish parliament without reducing the right of Scottish members to legislate for England. There must be a danger that the Commons will be seen as being almost as important as the Lords, and British democracy will look like a sham, particularly to the English. The Commons has lost too much of its authority already; any further loss could be fatal.

Every secondary school in Britain should distribute copies of last Thursday's *Hansard* so that pupils would understand these constitutional issues. In Tony Blair's words, "This debate will make better reading for the future if we consider the issues against the background, not only of a forthcoming general election, but of a much more serious matter — the crisis of representative democracy, not only in Britain but throughout the Western world. Power is too centralised; it is too secretive. It is increasingly authoritarian, not only in the parliamentary system, but in the political parties. Fundamental reforms are required." That too is a warning worthy of Burke.

Can we win back our democracy?

William Rees-Mogg

ernmental body which acts in secret, often by majority voting which removes decision-making still further from any individual European electorate. In respect of the European process, the House of Commons is plainly no longer functioning as a sovereign body, and since the British people exercise their sovereignty through the House of Commons, this loss by the Commons is a loss by the people.

All three parties share the responsibility for this decline of democracy. The House of Lords should indeed be made a more effective and more democratic revising chamber. The work of the last few weeks, when peers from all parties and the cross benches corrected the inadequacies of govern-

Mind the funding gap

We must stop public services going down the tubes, says Peter Riddell

This morning, along with 400,000 fellow Londoners, I shall be travelling on the Northern Line. This is a duty, rather than a pleasure, as we are crammed into old trains, with frequent stops in the middle of tunnels, delays, cancellations and out-of-order lifts and escalators. All is not hopeless. From the autumn, there will be new trains thanks to the Government's Private Finance Initiative. Unfortunately, the service will be no faster, and may be slower since overdue modernisation of track and signals has just been put back three years because of government cuts.

This absurdity is symbolic of the mismatch between the demand for public services and the available finance. That applies as much to the health service and education as it does to London Underground. The Underground is a victim of the Treasury's policy of always cutting capital investment to hold down overall spending. This is easier than cutting welfare provision or other current programmes, regardless of the impact of such sharp shifts on sensible planning. The Private Finance Initiative, under which the private sector finances and manages projects and assumes some of the risk, is supposed to close the gap. But as the Northern Line nonsense shows, this has a limited application, and anyway payment is only deferred to later years. Nor is this situation likely to improve. Gordon Brown has promised to stick to already announced spending plans. In detail for the coming year and in aggregate for the following year.

The investment cuts of more than £700 million over the next three years announced last week by London Un-



derground mean that spending will be too low to prevent the system from deteriorating further. This will add to a £2 billion backlog and risk a repetition of the two network-wide power failures of the past year.

This is not a problem for London commuters alone, nor is it a plea for more money from taxpayers generally. It is, as the chairman of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall, argued last week, a critical national issue, important for London's position as a financial and tourist centre, as well as for reducing pollution and congestion on the roads. This has produced growing tensions between government and business. Michael Cassidy, who has just stepped down after five years as chairman of the Corporation of London's key policy and resources committee, has criticised the Government's record and reluctance to try

new ideas which he has been prominent in urging.

The answer, all agree, is increased private sector involvement. A commitment to privatisation of the Underground is likely to be in the Tory manifesto. But Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, has been cautious because of doubts about separating infrastructure from operations, as happened with British Rail, since the Underground is inherently more integrated. Alternatives are splitting the system into five or six operators, or having an overall statutory authority to regulate levels of service and fares and to franchise individual lines.

Private sector operators would be free from Treasury controls in raising

capital. There would also be scope for improving efficiency, though London Underground is much better managed than ten or 15 years ago. The problem is whether the returns would be attractive enough, given the need to maintain services and the vast backlog of investment.

Some subsidy would be necessary to ensure the desired investment, as everywhere else in the world. In the absence of more money from taxpayers, there is a case for a levy on industry and commerce in London, to be paid on top of business rates, with small firms exempt. This has been suggested by the Corporation of London and backed by leading Tory supporters such as Lord Sheppard of Digione, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan. Under a scheme devised by Tony Travers and Stephen Glaister of the London

School of Economics, such a levy would be voted on by businesses, and would be for specific infrastructure projects.

This is similar to initiatives in New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, where local companies have voted to set up and finance Business Improvement Districts to produce safer and cleaner downtown areas. It is also like Liberal Democrat suggestions for taxes to finance particular programmes, such as a higher tobacco duty for the NHS. Paddy Ashdown has argued that only by establishing a clear link between taxes and spending will people be willing to pay more for services. The Treasury regards such ideas as gimmicks which threaten public spending control. The Government last year sniffily said that while it would not discourage further work on the infrastructure levy, it was clearly a tax.

Labour leaders have been wary both of endorsing the levy, for fear of being accused by the Tories of supporting a new tax, and of backing privatisation, for fear of alienating their allies. Andrew Smith, Labour's transport spokesman, has talked of attracting private investment "into the system without losing strategic control through privatisation". This could be done by station modernisation, smartcard ticketing, "designing, renewing and operating schemes for private sector refurbishment and maintenance of track and tunnels", and procurement and financing of trains. This may not amount to selling off the whole system but it is privatisation in practice. Increased private investment and earmarked levies may be the only way out of the tax and spend impasse.

This debate has not only united a wide range of diverse bodies in criticism of the Government, but has also helped to create a distinctive London voice. Ever since the abolition of the Greater London Council in the mid 1980s, the Tories have resisted a strategic authority for London. A Labour government would create one, and if Tony Blair had his way, a mayor for London as well. Someone needs to be speaking up for me as I try and find a little space to read *The Times* on the Northern Line.

Ever Hopeful

EVERY few weeks a fax arrives at Buckingham Palace from the Regal Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. It is from the concierge there, Greg Donovan, and exhorts the Queen to bestow a knighthood on Bob Hope, the comedian. Hope, 93, was born in England and moved to America before the First World War. The failure to honour him feels to Don-

ovan, the comedian's former valet, like a permanently stubbed toe. Donovan recalls the beginning of the "knight Bob" campaign. He was reading the newspapers out to Hope and saw that Norman Schwarzkopf had received an honorary "K". "I looked across at Mr Hope's big grand piano and there on prominent display was a portrait of

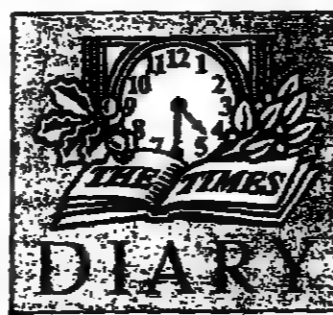
Her Majesty, Queen of England." When he suggested to Hope that he too should be knighted, the comedian "sort of fell silent and said quietly: 'Yes, you know that would be nice.'"

In the past two years, Donovan has written repeatedly to the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Prince Edward, the Prime Minister, even Princess Margaret, emphasising his hero's work entertaining British troops in the Second World War.

There is a precedent: another British comic genius who made his home in America, P.G. Wodehouse, was finally knighted aged 93, but died six weeks later on Long Island. Of his campaign for Hope, Donovan says: "I just want to thank him for the memories."

Viennese whirl

AS IF to prove that little changes in the fields of royalty and desperate vanity, the contents of the Austrian Empress Elisabeth's bathroom cabinet are being sold off in Vienna. Elisabeth, rated the Catherine Deneuve of the mid 19th century,



built up a colossal collection of prescriptions, lotions and potions. In the days before the Chelsea Harbour Club, she adhered to a strict gymnastic programme, starved herself to stay slim, refused to have her streams of hair cut despite the searing headaches they caused her, and by way of a Cosmo substitute, collected pictures of other beautiful women from history.

Last waltz?

SHADES of Michael Portillo's disastrous rally for his tenth anniversary in Parliament stalk Matthew Taylor, the eager-beaver Liberal Democrat MP for Truro. Taylor,

34, who speaks with exclamation marks, has sent out a letter asking fans to come and celebrate his own tenth anniversary at a dinner-dance at the Headland Hotel in Newquay, where they can listen to Paddy Ashdown and dance to the Soul Survivors — an improvement on last year "as it is a special occasion".

There may after all be no 20th anniversary. Defending a slim majority in the imminent election, Taylor shows a blithely confident spirit, writing: "At the moment, the constituency election fund is £90 in debt!"

So simple

OVER in Paris on Saturday night, Mick Hucknall, lead singer of the pop group Simply Red, was lounging round the bar at a nightclub host moored on the Seine and called Le Colonial. Suddenly the band went quiet and Hucknall's date, a striking blonde, dragged him onstage. Reluctantly he went and for the next half an hour sang a collection including Deep Purple's *Smoke on the Water* and the Rolling Stones' *Hotly Tink Woman*.

When he finished, the band leader came forward, looked at Hucknall, then blankly to the crowd. "Thank you very much," he paused. "Mr Simply Red."

● Promises are being auctioned on March 7 to raise money for the Dulwich Picture Gallery in south London. Lord Sainsbury promises free shopping. Lord Grossman promises lunch with Lord Grossman, while Gillian Clarke, the wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

has promised a course of A-level maths classes.

Max factor

THERE is a severe lesson to schoolmasters in David Twiston Davies's foreword to his tamer old collection of Canada obituaries: be good to your pupil one of them might end up running a newspaper. The Twister, as he is widely known, recalls how his former Editor at *The Daily Telegraph*, Max Hastings, decided to add a comment to an obituary of his housemaster Charterhouse, R.L. Arrowsmith. Hastings was no fan of Arrowsmith or Charterhouse. He said there were not enough ho in the day to be rude about place. So when Arrowsmith's v on wrote to complain about his marks, Hastings was not for ening. "A lively correspondent," wrote the Twister, which the Editor gave the grie woman an extensive rectorio her husband's shortcomings excesses."



Will Her Majesty soften and thank Bob for the good times?





COST OF BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Which party will make welfare work?

The Labour Party used to think that the only way to solve poverty was to take money from the rich and give it to the poor in the form of higher benefits. As today's *Times* guide to election issues on page 6 explains, the party has undergone a conversion. Now the emphasis by both parties is on helping people off welfare and into work. Fifty years of the postwar social security system have shown it to be the worst kind of safety-net — the kind from which it is very hard to climb. The challenge is to turn it into a trampoline.

Hence the talk from both Labour and the Tories of "workfare", in which benefit is given to the unemployed only if they are prepared to do work or training in return. New Labour has made much of the responsibilities that should accompany welfare rights: if opportunities are offered by the State, the individual ought to take them. Workfare will almost certainly form part of the Tory manifesto too. Today the Employment Minister, Eric Forth, will announce the extension of two pilot schemes to 28 areas, covering 100,000 long-term unemployed. In return for £10 a week on top of their benefit, they will have to spend 13 weeks job-seeking or training and a further 13 weeks working for the community if they are not to lose benefit altogether.

Labour would offer 250,000 young unemployed four different options. Those who refused would have their benefit cut by 40 per cent. Employers would be paid a £75 a week subsidy for each long-term unemployed person they took on. It proposes to spend the £3bn proceeds of its windfall tax on the utilities on these programmes.

The idea that people should offer something in return for their benefits has obvious attractions and serves two further purposes. Workfare instantly identifies and shakes out of the system those who have been abusing it — by claiming benefit but doing casual or

black-market work on the side. And those who are unused to the discipline of time-keeping and following instructions have the chance to learn or relearn the psychology of work, making themselves more employable.

But workfare is expensive. The cheapest way to deal with unemployment is to pay a Giro cheque each week. "Active" labour-market measures, which help people to look for work, train them and place them, cost far more. In the long run, there may be a return in terms of a lower social security bill, as long as the newly employed do not simply displace others from work. But in the short run, such schemes cannot be self-financing. The Tory proposals are expected to pay for themselves. Any promise in the manifesto to extend them nationwide as long as they are self-financing should therefore be taken with some scepticism.

But is Labour really in earnest in its promise to reform welfare? Would it not fall foul of old Labour ideology and the strength of the "poverty lobby"? Tony Blair would certainly have to show determination in the face of much of his parliamentary party. But he would find that the poverty pressure groups have undergone their own transformation in the past few years, and are more inclined than ever to support modern welfare-to-work measures. And a left-of-centre government would be more likely to win popular support for such reforms. There is some merit in Mr Blair's argument that only the party that founded the modern welfare state would be trusted to reform it.

Any difficulties that Mr Blair experienced with his parliamentary party would surely be offset by support from Tory benches. It would be extraordinary for a Conservative opposition to vote against legislation to toughen up welfare. Such reforms are likely to be enacted whichever party wins — the time is ripe for them.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Tell the story on the label

Almost every week brings fresh announcements of genetic modification or cloning of animals, fruit and vegetables. We report today on the first cloning of an adult sheep and on claims by scientists that they could genetically enhance vegetables in ways which will enhance human resistance to cancer. The sequence of debate follows what is now a predictable pattern. Scientists are careful to define the limited scope and uses of gene manipulation. Food and pharmaceutical companies stress that research shows no harmful side-effects.

The aims and claims are sincere, but consumers are not reassured; the dialogue of the deaf continues. Scientific advance has transformed food production over the past half century and genetic engineering is the greatest change of all. Consumers with no scientific training can only reach their conclusions about the safety of what they eat by looking for instructive parallels. In the case of BSE, scientific assurance that there could be no link to human illness eventually yielded to research which suggested the opposite. The various links in the food chain were hardly required to declare much to each other or to the consumer about exactly what had gone into the commodity they were selling.

The scientific parallel is not an exact one, but the issue of public confidence is precisely the same. Agribusiness, the food industry and the scientific community have failed to appreciate that the scope of their new opportunities requires a similarly sweeping revision of their attitude to consumer information. If they fail to see this need, a massive crisis of public confidence is inevitable when the first crack appears in the

confident certainties of today. Instead of obeying the minimal and patchy legal requirements to declare when food has been genetically modified, food retailers and wholesalers should move to establish better standards than governments and the EU now require.

The sorry political saga of the EU's attempts to establish some control over genetically modified maize and soya from America illustrates that where controls break down or are never set up, the only useful alternative is full information for the consumer. This may involve the food industry in giving customers far more information than they are currently accustomed to digest. It may involve delivering and displaying information in imaginative ways; it should certainly create a new culture of transparency in an industry not accustomed to working behind glass. Since governments are hard-pressed to finance the kinds of research programmes which will help to detect problems before they occur, the industry might like to contemplate financing a wider range of publicly available research into risks in gene technology.

Food manufacturers should aim to convince the public that doubt has been eliminated as thoroughly as possible. Two thirds of the items on supermarket shelves contain soya in some form or quantity and in time that could be soya produced using gene technology. Few consumers at the moment feel that they have the knowledge that they would like on how the tomato paste, the cheese, the self-ripening tomato arrives on the shelf. Whether the law requires it or not, ignorance should be remedied before it becomes fear.

TUNNEL VISION

Business to the rescue of the Tube

London was the first city in the world to build an underground system, and for more than a century this marvel of Victorian engineering sustained the capital's reputation as a city that worked. For the past 20 years, however, the attempt to consolidate London's attraction as a world business centre has been undermined by rising public anger and frustration at its dilapidated and worsening public transport. More than 30 years of underinvestment in the Tube have taken a heavy toll. Passengers have grown used to being stranded in fetid tunnels. Worn-out cables have caused power cuts, defective signalling held up trains and escalators halted awaiting repair. The cumulative effect has been disastrous for the reputation of London as a world centre.

The announcement by London Underground that it is postponing or scrapping hundreds of proposed improvements to the system because of a £700 million budget shortfall must induce despair in the capital's travellers. Under trading conditions that would floor a less committed management, the London Transport chairman, Peter Ford, has succeeded in halting the decline. Passenger numbers are rising, more trains are running than ever before, the investment backlog has been halved and train operations are now making money. But he has been dealt two harsh blows by Whitehall. Virtually ordered to construct the Jubilee Line to save government face and investment in Docklands, he has been refused any additional money for the inevitable cost overruns. London Transport must also now

respond to the savaging of its investment by Kenneth Clarke's budget.

The money must be found somewhere. The Government trumpets its commitment to urban renewal, cleaner air, a better environment and the financial pre-eminence of the City of London, but is unwilling to do anything to relieve traffic congestion or pay more than ritual lip-service to public transport preconditions for these proclaimed goals. The City knows this. Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of the capital's business lobby London First Centre, says that without a functioning transport system, London — the powerhouse of the British economy which provides a net subsidy of £6 billion to the rest of the country — could not function. Should the City not come to the rescue? The will, the money and the precedent are there: a consortium was willing to back the doomed Crossrail scheme and the refurbishment of Bank station has been helped with City grants.

In the long term, privatisation — despite the complexity — is inevitable. But until then, the Tube needs more than bandaging and patching. Mr Ford will do what he can to stimulate Private Finance Initiatives. If London cares about its future, then its banks, brokers and businesses must be ready to pay with loans or levies. Railtrack is to spend £15 billion renewing the main lines' vital infrastructure; Richard Branson has grandiose plans for a swift, profitable service on the West Coast main line. Only London seems doomed to further stagnation on its rails. The lines must be cleared.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Judges and Home Office in conflict over sentencing

From Lord Ackner

Sir, Baroness Blatch, Minister of State at the Home Office, in her letter of February 19, clearly implies that the judges are failing to impose adequate sentences. May I remind her of the following important facts.

1. In 1991 the judges were accused by the Government of being too tough on crime. Accordingly, amongst other statutory measures to curb their sentencing powers, Section 29 (1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 provided: "An offence shall not be regarded as more serious for the purposes of any provision of this Part by reason of any previous convictions of the offender or any failure of his to respond to previous sentences."

2. The sample figures which Baroness Blatch quotes, purporting to demonstrate that the judges are now too soft on crime by failing adequately to increase their sentences by reason of previous convictions, cover a period of 1993 and 1994. These samples were obtained in the Criminal Justice Act 1993 to repeal Section 29 and restore to the judges their discretion to take into account previous convictions.

3. The Home Office does not normally collect information about the previous convictions of burglars. The statistics in Lady Blatch's letter have been constructed from a sampling exercise conducted in five different weeks in 1993 and 1994. These samples covered only 949 burglars out of a total of 78,300 sentenced in those two years.

4. Average figures are notoriously misleading. In 1994 the range of first custodial sentences for burglary was from two months to seven years. For a second conviction from two months to ten years. For the third or more of such convictions it was between six months and ten years.

5. Since the repeal of Section 29 the prison population has gone up by ap-

proximately 50 per cent, from approximately 30,000 to 60,000, and currently there is considerable anxiety at the extent of prison overcrowding.

Yours faithfully,
ACKNER,
House of Lords,
February 20.

From the Director of Justice

Sir, Baroness Blatch rightly says that it is "essential that the public have confidence in our criminal justice system". The Government's stated aims — honesty and transparency in sentencing and the protection of the public — are also laudable. But the proposed mandatory sentencing regime will achieve none of these aims.

Mandatory sentences ignore the reality that crimes — even by repeat offenders — are committed in a wide variety of circumstances. Judicial discretion ensures that the principle of proportionality is maintained as judges see the offenders, the circumstances of the crime, and the effect on the victims and their families, all at first hand.

Excellent research carried out by the Prison Reform Trust shows that mandatory sentences have resulted in more contested trials — exposing victims to the trauma of having to give evidence — and that there has been a shift from judicial to prosecutorial discretion as prosecutors and defence lawyers circumvent mandatory sentences by negotiating guilty pleas to lesser charges.

The result is dishonesty in sentencing, which is bound to lose public confidence. The House of Lords amendments to restore judicial discretion strike a blow for common sense. It is to be hoped that they are accepted by the Government when the Bill returns to the Commons: otherwise we may

see a future government hurriedly introducing reforms shortly after its enactment — exactly what happened with the previous attempt to fetter judicial discretion in sentencing, by unit fines, in the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. This is no way to legislate for the protection of the public.

Yours,
ANNE OWERS,
Director,
Justice,
59 Carter Lane, EC4,
February 19.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, If the Crime (Sentencing) Bill ever becomes law in substantially its present form the judges will have to construe the resulting Act according to its text, not Baroness Blatch's version of it as set out in her letter. They will find in it a reference to "burglary", but none to what she calls "house burglars" nor "to breaking into other people's homes". Her language reflects that of the Larceny Act 1916 which was repealed in 1968.

Under the Theft Act 1968, which replaced this legislation, the social inadequate, living in a tenement let out in single rooms, commits burglary if he enters the unlocked room of another resident, breaks open the gas meter in it and steals the contents. So does the passer-by who enters an empty building to steal firewood or fittings.

Would a judge, under the proposed Bill, be entitled to find that there were exceptional circumstances in such cases? They are common enough.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Skelton, York,
February 20.

Bishop's reply on Lenten reading

From the Bishop of Jarrow

Sir, May I respond to the letters which you published on February 20, commenting on my decision to read the Koran during Lent.

Each day in Lent the morning prayer, as found in the increasingly popular *Celebrating Common Prayer*, begins with the words "Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy" — a healing phrase which punctuates the Bible and heads each chapter of the Koran.

The sadness of our world is that this fundamental truth gets lost in the midst of human conflict: sectarian struggles in Ireland, aggressive intolerance in Sudan, destructive violence in Pakistan and vendettas and fatwas in the Middle East are featured in your columns daily.

But none of these events, tragic as they are in themselves and in their consequences, compromises the central truth of a religion, as stated in your leading article of February 13. "The truth about the faith", and as the letter you published on February 22 from the Imam of the London Mosque confirms.

Far from it being inappropriate in Lent to read the Koran when things like this are happening, these very events themselves (and the many similar ones in the history of other religions, including Christianity) make it all the more essential to go back to sources and sift the truth from its distorted expressions.

Then we may find in one another traces of that compassion and mercy which are God's essence and his gift to all.

Yours faithfully,
TALAN JARROW,
The Old Vicarage,
Hallgarth, Pittington, Durham,
February 22.

From Mr Qamar Nadeem Ahmed

Sir, The Pastor of Norwich Reformed Church acknowledges that the "study of other faiths is useful in discouraging prejudice" (letter, February 20), but goes on to lament Islam's "barbaric penalties" for criminals and the Muslim persecution of Sudanese Christians, concluding that such a religion has "little or nothing to teach those who value the Bible".

In the Muslim community similar voices can be heard decrying Christianity for all the sins of modernity, including the abuse of drugs, homosexuality, the AIDS virus, and infanticide.

The sooner we follow the example of the Bishop of Jarrow in showing greater tolerance for the scriptural premises of religion as opposed to human imponderability, the sooner we shall be able to rise above the din and clamour of prejudice and chauvinism.

As a Muslim, I see in the Bishop of Jarrow's gesture only a benign attempt to strengthen not only the bonds of affinity between Muslims and Christians but to give greater credence and vigour to the Church.

Yours sincerely,

Q. N. AHMED,
4 Baidry Gardens, SW16,
February 20.

From Canon H. W. J. Harland

Sir, Give up the Bible for Lent? My Lenten discipline is to give up bishops.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. J. HARLAND,
St John's Vicarage,
4 Cornwall Avenue,
Folkestone, Kent.

Science and the arts

From the Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain

Sir, Your correspondent Mr K. R. Williams (February 20, see also letters, February 15) will be pleased to know that, in the 170 years since Faraday started the Friday evening discourses at the Royal Institution as a way of bringing current science to the general audience, the 300 or so members and guests who continue to attend each week contain many who are not themselves scientists.

Lawyers, civil servants, industrialists, school teachers and a variety of other professionals gain enlightenment and, dare one say, entertainment, through such discourses as we are a bit light on politicians.

Furthermore, for the last two or three years it has been possible to see some of the discourses on BBC TV, albeit in the Learning Zone broadcast at dead of night.

Bridges between humanities and sciences remain as important, and elusive, as ever but the Royal Institution is still a forum for all.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAY,
Director,
The Royal Institution of Great Britain,
21 Albemarle Street, W1,
February 20.

Seasonal variations

From Mr Patrick Dudgeon

Sir, It is perfectly correct for British Airways to serve alcohol during Lent (letter, February 17), as all the passengers could take advantage of "travelers' dispensation".

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUDGEON,
The White House,
Elfringham Street, Dover, Kent,
February 18.

Price of scholarship

From Mr A. W. N. Probert

Sir, Libby Purves, in her article on the price of privatising Oxford (February 18) makes an apt point on the unique value placed on thought and scholarship at Oxford and Cambridge. Many who have experienced both Oxford and Cambridge institutions cannot fault the teaching and research of the latter, but they do not rival the ancient foundations for encouraging new ideas and exposing them to great minds and sheer scholastic vigour.

Quality would, in my view, be ensured by the provision of a comprehensive grant linked to a "graduate tax", which would cover both tuition and living costs and later be levied according to income after graduation. This was proposed by Nicholas O'Shaughnessy and Nigel Allington in their book, *Light, Liberty and Learning* (1992), and is infinitely preferable to the bastardised version of the student loan scheme now being proposed (reports, February 17).

Such a "tax" would allow for proper funding of universities, much reduced cost to the Exchequer and fair and equitable finances for the students, who need to receive money when they need it and repay when (and if) they can afford it. And it's an original idea — honed at Oxford.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PROBERT,
University of Cambridge,
The Judge Institute of Management Studies,
Trumpington Street, Cambridge,
February 19.

Rifkind in Germany

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, Why should anyone apologise for describing Mr Rifkind as a Jew (report, February 22)? Not only are Jews respected members of our own society, Germany was a more highly regarded and acceptable member of the European community when its Jewish citizens were able to contribute so much to its and the world's culture.

Yet the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's* gaffe, for the epithet is irrelevant to a political debate, is a timely reminder that Germany's nationalistic intolerance still lies just below the democratic language with which Chancellor Kohl clothes his drive to build a Fourth Reich.

It reveals how little some Germans understand genuine Europeanism, when a respected newspaper is apparently surprised that a Jew should quote a German Protestant who translated the Jewish scriptures into German to curb Roman pretensions.

Yours faithfully,

LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Larc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire,
February 22.

From Mrs Robert Willis

Sir, On reading the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, Mr Rifkind will no doubt recall Bismarck's reference to Disraeli at the Congress of Berlin: "Der alte Jude, das ist der Mann" ("The old Jew, that's the man").

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH WILLIS,
Bunbury, Lower Shiplake,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
February 22.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Plea to release Mordechai Vanunu

From Mr Andrew F. Neil

Sir, On the occasion of the first official visit to this country of the Head of State of Israel, it is appropriate to draw attention to the tragic and outrageous plight of Mordechai Vanunu. He is now in his eleventh year of solitary confinement in an Israeli jail after being illegally abducted from the United Kingdom by Israel's secret service in 1986, and sentenced to a savage 18 years' imprisonment for providing *The Sunday Times* with details of Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme.

Mr Vanunu was convicted of treason and espionage — perhaps the only example in the democratic world of the leaking of information to a newspaper being treated as an act of treason. Israeli officials have consistently claimed that he "purposefully assisted" countries that were in a state of war with Israel. But there is not a shred of evidence to show that he ever approached or tried to supply any foreign power or enemy of Israel with the information in his possession.

Instead, he came to *The Sunday Times* with his testimony and photographs, so that the world would know that Israel had secretly become the world's sixth-largest nuclear weapons state, while its leaders were denying that Israel had a nuclear capability and even claiming that it would never be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

Imagine how we would feel if a British government had made us a nuclear power by subterfuge, without democratic accountability or even putting the issue to the vote. We would surely regard any whistleblower in such circumstances as a hero of open government rather than a traitor. Yet the Israeli authorities have sought to besmirch Mr Vanunu's motives at every opportunity, alleging that he tried to hawk his story around for large sums of money.

As Editor when he came to *The Sunday Times* in 1986, I can testify

'Falling sickness'

From Professor J. B. P. Stephenson

Sir, Dr Stuttaford's article of February 13, "The last of the hidden diseases", could give the impression that everyone with a "falling sickness" has epilepsy. This is not the case. Up to 50 per cent of those thought to have epilepsy do not have this condition. In most cases the error comes from not recognising syncope (fainting fit, anoxic seizure) for what it is. To quote a recent North American textbook:

"In the 19th century, neurologists often had trouble distinguishing between syncope and epileptic seizures. Indeed, until well after World War II, British physicians

viewed fainting in church as highly suggestive of an underlying epileptic disorder. However, EEG studies have demonstrated unequivocally that, despite confusing signs of tonic spasms, generalised body jerks, and urinary incontinence, syncope is non-epileptic."

Research into both types of "falling sickness" must be supported but the distinction between them needs to be maintained.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. P. STEPHENSON,
Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
Department of Neurology and
Child Development,
Yorkhill, Glasgow,
February 13.

Pews and popcorn

From Mr Colin S. Gale

Sir, Since 1818 thousands of churches across England and Wales have undertaken to provide most, if not all, of their pews for the free use of parishioners in consideration of the financial assistance rendered by the Incorporated Church Building Society, to which Mr Greenhaugh draws attention (letter, February 15). The records of the society are now open to public access at Lambeth Palace Library.

Such assurances, with moral if not legal force, were given by the officers of Mrs Ann Hale's village church in Warwickshire in 1876, the time of its re-paving (letter, February 8). The better-off residents of the parish rais-

ed no objection. But, according to the then rector, neither did they attend the church or donate a shilling towards its restoration, as many of them (including the local landowner) were Methodists and had their own church improvement scheme to fund.

In an increasingly competitive market, churches wishing to increase their custom would do well to foster caring communities of genuine faith, perhaps sharing a pot of tea after morning service but leaving the popcorn in the cinema, along with the paying stalls that were forsaken long ago.

Yours etc,
COLIN S. GALE,
(Assistant Archivist),
Lambeth Palace Library,
London SE1 7JU.

OBITUARIES

FRANK LAUNDER



Frank Launder, screenwriter and film director, died in Monaco yesterday aged 89. He was born in 1907.



From Launder's film *The Pure Hell of St. Trinian's*, 1960

PRETENDING to no higher purpose than to entertain, Frank Launder wrote, directed and produced some of the most popular films in the heyday of British cinema. During the Second World War he and his long-term associate Sidney Gilliat were responsible for such hits as *Millions Like Us* (1943), *Waterloo Road* (1944) and *The Rake's Progress* (1945). But it was for their quintessentially English, school-girl farce, *The Bells of St. Trinian's* (1954), that they will be best remembered.

The story of a raucous and bankrupt school for girls in which more time is spent backing horses than sitting on the school bench, the film was an enormous commercial success. In the words of one critic it was "not so much a film as an entertainment on celluloid, a huge caricature, a rich pile of idiotic and splendidly senseless images". Launder and Gilliat followed it up with four sequels including *Blue Murder at St. Trinian's* (1957) and *The Pure Hell of St. Trinian's* (1960).

Frank Launder was born in Hiltchin, Herefordshire, and educated in Brighton. While working in the Civil Service he joined the Brighton Repertory Company and it was when the company presented one of his own comedies, *There Was No Signpost*, that his movie career began. A film producer spotted it and offered him a trial as a scriptwriter. With the demise of silent movies, dialogue was becoming important in the film industry for the first time.

Launder entered the cinema in the scenario department of British International Pictures at Elstree, where he

started by designing titles and then turned to scriptwriting. Films were made in the hectic studio "factory" system of those days, and Launder often found that his scripts were being torn, quite literally, page by page from his typewriter for immediate use.

Among his assignments were literary adaptations, such as *Shadows How He Lied to Her Husband and Hardy's Under the Greenwood Tree*. In the latter Launder found himself being asked to kiss his hand in front of the microphone because the primitive equipment of the time could not pick up the sound of members of the cast kissing in front of the camera. At this time Launder also wrote material for the comedians Leslie Fuller and Ernie Lotinga, and devised the story *Oh Mr Porter*, a delightful comedy starring Will Hay.

Launder's first collaboration with Sidney Gilliat was in 1936 when they were jointly responsible for the script of a thriller, *Seven Sinners*, and it was in that genre that they first made their mark. Two years later their script for *The Lady Vanishes* was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock. It introduced the intrepid Englishmen, Charters and Calhoun (played by Basil Radford and Norman Wayne), who so caught the public fancy that they went on to appear in other films and even had their own radio series.

Night Train to Munich, directed by Carol Reed, was another successful thriller from a Launder-Gilliat script, and they worked with Reed again on *Young Mr Pitt*. In 1943 they turned to directing and made a distinguished debut with *Millions Like Us*, a warm and sympathetic study of women factory workers in wartime.

After that they took turns to direct but they continued to collaborate on scripts and to act as co-producers. Their individual contributions are difficult to separate. From 1944 they had their own production company, Individual Pictures. Their trademark became a pair of empty folding director's chairs, with the names Launder and Gilliat on the backs. But, one not wanting to take precedence over the other, they regularly swapped the chairs around so that neither name always appeared first.

Among the films directed by Launder in the postwar period were *See a Dark Stranger*, a comedy thriller, and *Captain Boycott*, an historical drama, both with Irish backgrounds and *The Blue Lagoon*, from the novel by H. de Vere Stacpoole. But by far his most successful picture at this time was *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, set in a girls' school and drawing rich comedy performances from Alistair Sim (a favourite Launder-Gilliat actor), Margaret Rutherford and Joyce Grenell.

In 1954 Launder turned to comedy in a broader idiom with *The Belles of St. Trinian's*, which was inspired by Ronald Searle's drawings of dreadful schoolgirls. It contained another tour de force by Alistair Sim, who played both the headmistress and her no-good brother. The enormous popularity of the film led to four sequels.

Launder's favourite film was *Geordie* (1955), a whimsical piece about a weakly Scottish boy who becomes an Olympic athlete. His later work as a director included *The Bridal Path* and *Joey Boy*, an army comedy. During the 1960s Launder and Gilliat were active in the management of British Lion, the independent production and distribution company, and this left them less time for their own projects.

After *Endless Night* (1972), a suspense story based on the novel by Agatha Christie, Gilliat virtually retired, but Launder went on to complete the fifth instalment of the *St. Trinian's* saga, *The Wildcats of St. Trinian's* in 1980. This was to be his last film. He retired to live at Cap d'Al in the South of France.

Sidney Gilliat died in 1994. Launder is survived by his second wife Bernadette O'Farrell, who had appeared in several of his films, and by two children from his first marriage and two children from his second.

MARGARET BRANCH

Margaret Branch, founder of the National Association for Gifted Children, died on January 30 aged 84. She was born on April 18, 1912.



AS A social worker, Margaret Branch recognised the pressing need for society to do something for gifted children who, through boredom and frustration, could so easily become disturbed and misunderstood. It was largely due to her vision, energy and persuasiveness that the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) was founded in 1960. From then on it was moulded by her powerful, if idiosyncratic, personality. Her strong principles and ideas, though others may not always have agreed with them, were nonetheless treated with respect.

Branch did not believe that gifted children should go to special schools but that teachers and parents should be trained to recognise and deal with them. What a gifted child needed, she argued, was a richer, deeper curriculum, rather than a quicker journey through a normal one. She was always adamant that the identities of gifted children should be protected and that no family should be excluded from membership of the organisation because of financial inability.

The NAGC now has a steady membership of around 2,000 families and 200 schools. Its opinion and expertise is widely recognised and sought. In its branches all over Britain, gifted children can mix with others like them in "an atmosphere where specialness is ordinary and where they do not have to act out their ideas of ordinariness but can be themselves".

Margaret Johnston, as she was before her marriage to Donald Branch, was born in London but taken to Vancouver by her parents when she was only a few weeks old. The family only returned to London 12 years later.

She trained and worked as a social worker in Liverpool before, in 1938, going to Prague to teach English. But with the invasion of the Czech Republic the next year she returned to London where, on the outbreak of the Second World War, she joined the WAAFs. Subsequently she be-

came involved in the French Resistance, and, captured by the Nazis, she was tortured and interned in a concentration camp.

After the war she worked with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in Poland before winning a scholarship in 1947 to study mental health at the LSE. Graduating, she worked as a psychiatric social worker.

Branch was particularly fascinated by the work of Karl Jung. When he invited her to Zurich, she accepted the offer with alacrity, and spent months working under his supervision. "He was wonderfully irascible," she later wrote, "and the basis of all I know. Most of what skill I have is with him."

Returning to Britain, she continued to work as a psychiatric social worker, first at Bexley Hospital, 1948-53, and then at Maudsley Hospital, before taking on a senior psychiatric social worker's post in the York Clinic of Guy's Hospital where she remained until her retirement.

It was when she was at Guy's that, in 1965, she attended the conference which led to her launching the NAGC, combining her training in psychology with the educational expertise of her colleague, the former headmistress Camilla Ruegg.

Branch and Ruegg, who shared a home throughout their lives (Branch separated from her husband), worked doggedly. Within nine months the first NAGC camp was held at Tektel's Park in Camberley. Branch worked late into the night preparing for each new day, and yet would still have the energy and enthusiasm to be up long before dawn, to lead groups of children on badge-making forays. Her 1966 book *Gifted Children* focused professional attention on the association.

Soon the NAGC had grown into an organisation of national status recognised as holding authoritative views. Branch was a determined publicist, never letting slip any chance to appear on television or radio. Though diminutive in stature, her at times shrewish temper and her dogged determination made her a force to be reckoned with.

On retiring from the NHS in 1973 she continued to practise privately as a psychotherapist and was particularly interested in the counselling of transsexuals. She also worked for a while as the full-time general secretary of the NAGC. It was with great reluctance that she eventually let go of the reins.

Margaret Branch's husband, from whom she had been separated for many years, predeceased her in 1970.

THE REVEREND MICHAEL HOLLINGS

The Reverend Michael Hollings, MBE, MC, Roman Catholic priest and author, died on February 21 aged 75. He was born on December 30, 1921.

WHEN Michael Hollings, then a recently demobilised major in the Coldstream Guards, first visited a chaplain with thoughts of becoming a priest, he was asked why he wanted to be ordained. "To help people," was his immediate answer. In his ensuing career he fulfilled this aim so abundantly that some considered him a saint.

The regimes he established as Roman Catholic chaplain at Oxford University and then as parish priest of St. Anselm's, Southall, and finally of St. Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, were models of enlightened pastoral care. At each, the door was kept open 24 hours a day to provide access for anyone, not least the "ladies and gentlemen of the street" as Hollings delicately described the down-and-outs.

He frequently slept in a chair, having given up his bed to someone who had arrived in the night in a state of crisis, and one often recounted story of his ministry tells of how one night a burglar broke into his room while he was meditating in the darkness. Startled at finding someone there, the intruder was just about to flee, when Hollings called out that

he would not call the police if the man would return for a talk with him the next day. The intruder eventually became one of Hollings's most loyal parishioners.

It was through an intense spirituality grounded in prayer that Hollings arrived at his particular brand of faith. He was a prolific writer on the subject, publishing some 30 books, including the popular *Hey-You!* (1955), *The Living Priesthood* (1971) and *Christ Died at Notting Hill* (1983). Yes, Hollings was an unconventional figure, quite prepared to act on his own interpretation of Roman Catholic precepts.

He was progressive, strongly ecumenical, in favour of the ordination of women, and always prepared to speak his mind. He described his attitude to the Church as "an obedience which seems like disobedience", insisting that it was Christ he sought to follow, and that the immediate expression of the Church could sometimes be a stumbling block. Perhaps it was this individuality which, in the end, precluded him from succeeding Cardinal Heenan as Archbishop of Westminster in 1975.

Michael Richard Hollings was in fact directly descended from an Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Weld, on his mother's side. But his father's family were resolutely Church of England.



Hollings at a service during the Notting Hill Carnival

He was first educated according to his father's faith, but was later sent to the Jesuits at Beaumont College, aged 17 when the war broke out, and he was sent to Sandhurst, and subsequently commissioned into the Coldstream Guards. After a period on King's Guard at Buckingham Palace, he embarked on a highly successful war in North Africa (where he was wounded), Italy and Palestine. He was awarded

the Military Cross in 1943 for a bayonet charge he led in Italy, capturing seven Germans. He was also mentioned in dispatches. Of this period, Hollings would later say: "God came out of my life and people came in."

With the end of the war, Hollings felt an emptiness in his life which was gradually filled with the return of his faith. He was interviewed for the priesthood by Cardinal Griffin, who, thinking that

Hollings was ten years older than he was, arranged for him to undergo the (abbreviated) preparation for ordination for those with late vocations at the Beda College in Rome. The years in Rome were something of a dark phase for Hollings who struggled with the loss of his previous identity and standing, finding lifelines in stringent living and contemplative prayer.

Hollings's first posting on his return to England after ordination in 1950 was to St. Patrick's Church, Soho Square, then a dilapidated establishment where he once woke to find a rat chewing his hair. The human diversity of the area fulfilled his hopes of working with people, although his relations with his superiors were somewhat strained. The parish priest disapproved of his accepting invitations to dinner, writing film reviews for *Focus* magazine, and spending time with the theatrical community.

Hollings was particularly liked by the parish policy of refusing to answer the door or telephone while the priests were eating. He determined that he would keep any church in which he might have authority in the future constantly open to all who needed him.

After four years in Soho, Hollings was instructed to report to Westminster Cathedral to take up work as a chaplain. He was particularly uncomfortable with the pomp

and ceremony attendant on that role, later describing the Pontifical High Mass as having been largely a matter of dressing and undressing the Cardinal to music. Far more satisfying to him was his involvement, from the late 1950s, as religious adviser to various television companies. He considered the rigours of television appearances invaluable to his development as a preacher.

In 1959 Hollings was appointed Chaplain to the Roman Catholics at Oxford University where, to top up his meagre funding, he took to writing, giving talks and running retreats. Here, for the first time, he had a relatively free hand to run things his way, and he vigorously set about putting his own house philosophy into action.

Hollings gradually developed a reputation as a wise counsellor. Doctors, heads of colleges and psychiatrists made extensive use of his services. He was later equally successful in his inner city parishes, as at home with the drug addicts or the Sikhs of Southall as he had been with university undergraduates. During his time at Bayswater, the local Notting Hill Carnival was threatened by racial tensions. It was to Michael Hollings that the warring sides turned. He was the one man trusted enough by all to act as mediator.

The esteem in which Hol-

lings was held made it all the more shocking and painful when, in 1990, he was accused in the *News of the World* of having improperly approached an adolescent boy placed in his care 25 years earlier. The diocese of Westminster sent him on enforced "administrative leave" for the six months it took the police to decide that there was no basis for any action to be taken. Meanwhile his parishioners rallied to his support, accusing the church authorities of handling the matter ineptly. After he was reinstated, Hollings wrote to friends that he was at peace over the matter, but the strain the episode placed on his already frail health was plain to see.

Despite the ascetic side to Hollings's character (while at the Beda, he developed the habit of sleeping on the floor), he was also more than capable of enjoying the good things of life, including a large gin and tonic from time to time. He particularly loved social meals, which allowed his wit and ready laughter to come into play. He detested pomposity, and would seek to deflate it whenever it arose, and could also seem remote or off-hand if he sensed his valuable time being wasted. But to those in need of it he gave his time wholeheartedly until the end.

Hollings is survived by an unmarried sister and a brother in the United States.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev John Angle, Assistant Curate (NSM), Cleveland St. Andrew, Christ Church, and St. Peter: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Worle Team Ministry (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Alexander Armstrong, NSM, Livingston (Edinburgh): to be Assistant Curate, Cleator Moor and Cleator, and Frizington and Arlestone (Carlisle).

The Rev Nicholas Ash, Priest-in-charge, Flookburgh and part-time Assistant Stewardship Officer (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-charge, Flookburgh and Carlisle Diocesan Director-designate of Ordinands.

The Rev Peter Bannister, Vicar, St. James, Taunton: to be also a Vicar of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev Kenneth Beake, Priest-in-charge, St. Stephen, Norwich and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Norwich): to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

The Rev James Bell, Vicar, St. James, Taunton: to be Director of Ministry and Training, and Canon Residentiary of Ripon Cathedral.

The Rev Margaret Bradburn, Warden of Readers and Co-ordinator of Lay Training (Walsley): to be also Principal, Wakefield Ministry Scheme.

Canon Julia Butterworth, Team Vicar, St. Andrew, Whitstable: to be Priest-in-charge, Tenenden St. Michael, and Diocesan Spiritual-ity Adviser (Canterbury).

The Rev Simon Butler, Assistant Curate, St. Joseph the Worker, Northolt (London): to be Vicar, Immanuel and St. Andrew, Streatham (Southwark).

The Rev Geoffrey Calway, Curate (Bristol): to be Priest-in-charge, Puhlow w. Penford, Compton Dando and Chelwood (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Jonathan Clark, Director of Studies, Southern Training Scheme for Christian Ministry: to be Chaplain, University of North London.

The Rev Hereward Cooke, Rural Dean of Norwich East, Senior

Industrial Chaplain and Assistant Priest, St. Peter Mancroft (Norwich): to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

The Rev Peter Couper, Curate, Kippax w. Allerton Bywater: to be Curate, Stanningley (Ripon).

The Rev Victor Daley, Vicar, Cheddar and Rural Dean of Axbridge: to be also a Vicar of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev Ann Easter, NSM, Forest Gate, Ennismore w. St. Peter, Upton Cross, and Assistant Area Dean of Newham: to be Area Dean of Newham (Chelmsford).

The Rev Diana Fisher, Assistant Curate (NSM), East Leake, West Leake, St. Andrew-on-Soar, Remington and Coslode: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), West Bridgford St. Giles (Southwell).

The Rev Richard Frank, Rector, Greyfriars Team Ministry, Priest-in-charge, Patterdale, Covenanter of Non-Stipendiary Ministers, Rural Dean of Penrith (Carlisle): to be also an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.

The Rev David Fudge, Priest-in-charge, St. Hugh, Bermondsey (Canterbury Mission): to be Parish Priest (half-time), The Ascension, Blackheath, and Adviser on Evangelism (half-time), Woolwich Area Mission Team (Southwark).

Resignations and retirements
Canon David Baxter, Vice-Provost and Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral: to retire June 9.

The Rev Richard Cleet, Rector, Winton and Pen Selwood (Bath & Wells): to resign March 8.

Canon George Farran, Chancellor of Wells Cathedral: to retire June 30.

The Rev John Furness, Rector, Swyncombe w. Belfield, Seabone (Oxford): to retire January 31.

Canon David Owen, Team Rector, Swan Team Ministry (Oxford): to retire July 31.

LANDSCAPE IN ART
PICTURES AS REGISTERS
OF CHANGE

(From A Correspondent)

It is commonplace experience that the look of towns and cities alters radically and quickly; that towns transform themselves. The Delft of today looks utterly different from the town in Vermeer's "View of Delft." The modification of the open landscape, though slower, proceeds with a greater thoroughness and rapidity than we know. Mediterranean Europe most likely had its general "used" aspect of today 2,000 years ago. Not, however, until about the 15th century did the whole of effective Europe have its occupied and used appearance. And by that time parts of Mediterranean Europe had fallen back towards ruin, through excessive use. The painters, in their backgrounds and landscapes, have recorded the subsequent changes in the appearance of Europe. It would be more correct, perhaps, to say that they have registered the kind of change, for the record is complete neither for time nor place. Landscape forced only a slow recognition from the painters, and has not yet properly entered literature. On that account we depend, for information, on the backgrounds of the early painters, and are hampered, more or less, by

ON THIS DAY

February 24, 1930

The unnamed correspondent who submitted this article was Marcel Aurore.

The artists' imperfect technique, faulty observation, and habit of making up scenes from memory. With later landscape pictures we have to remember that artists paint chosen scenes and that creative composition adapts the object to its idea. The early Flemings and Italians know how different were the states of the Low Countries and Italy in the 15th century: the former green and growing, the latter barren, and gone to waste. If, however, we study the backgrounds of a chain of artists, such as Giovanni and Gentile Bellini, Raphael, Titian, and Tintoretto, who cover about 150 years of continuous painting, we discern nothing less than the re-afforestation of Italy during the late 15th and the 16th centuries. Trees are planted, grow to be gay saplings, multiply, and gather into woods, as the canvases are passed in review. And

foreigners continue to produce the same evidence of more and older trees in Italy in later time — Claude and the Poussins in the 17th century and Turner right down to the first half of the 19th century. Turner, indeed, shows that parts of Italy were heavily wooded in his time. Coming back to the north, we can take such a chain as Dürer, Rubens and Hobbema, and find, over the 200 years of their painting, wilderness and solitude becoming rural. The evidence of great landscape-painting is concentrated in the 18th century, in England, by Gainsborough, Crome, Constable, and Turner; and, if it be only in roads, embankments, and bridges, the slow change is nevertheless apparent, even in this informal England. We have to go to France to witness the changes of the 19th century properly, but France alone convinces us that the landscape suffered more changes in the 19th century than during the 400 preceding years. From the birth of Corot to the death of Matisse is 150 years, and the French landscape-painters of the first half of that period — Corot, Daubigny, Rousseau, Harpignies — differ from those of the latter half — Cézanne, Pissarro, Puvion de Lavallée, Monet — on account of more than a revolution in art. The thing to be painted underwent a transformation that gave the latter group a kind of new material for art.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

AY FEBRUARY 24

TODAY

IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

RAIN
AND
SHINEKnight leads
England to second
one-day
success
PAGE 26NET LOSS
FOR HENMANBriton falls
at final
hurdle
in Antwerp
PAGE 28GRAND PRIX 97
20-page supplement
PLUS new fantasy
Formula One game

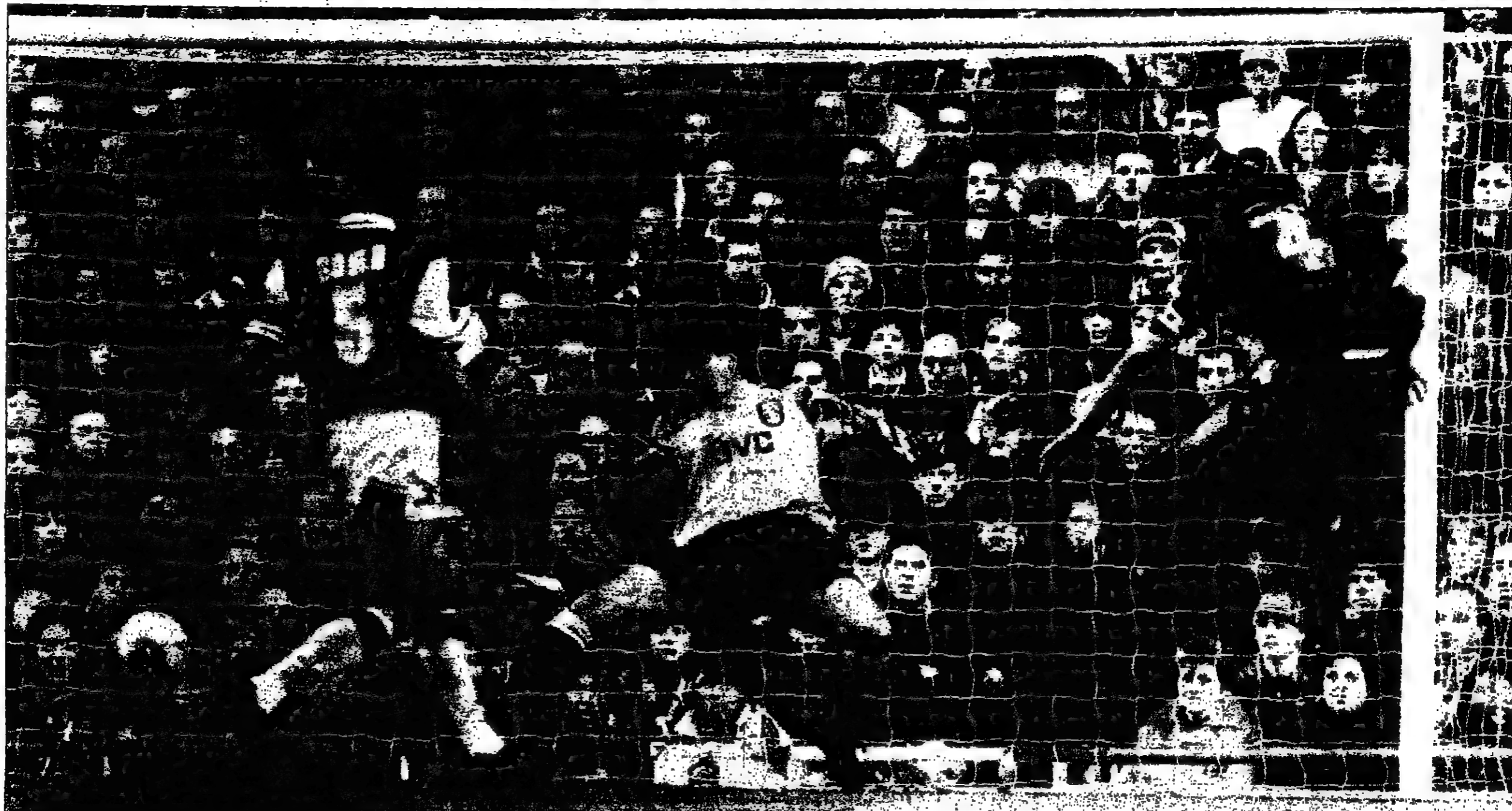
PULLING TOGETHER

Tug o' War makes its mark
Report PAGE 36

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 1997

WIMBLEDON CRUSH ARSENAL TITLE HOPES AT HIGHBURY



Bould watches helplessly as Jones, right, fires a venomous volley past Lukic in the Arsenal goal to give Wimbledon what proved to be a decisive lead at Highbury yesterday. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Vinnie: 'Veni, vidi, vici'

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

STRANGE but true, Wimbledon, for ever pleading poverty, have far greater strength in depth than wealthy Arsenal. Which is one of the reasons why they won this windswept game at Highbury, surviving even the early loss of Oyvind Leonhardsen, their outstanding midfielder player from Norway, his calf ripped open by an opponent's studs.

Arsenal have no Leonhardsen, and thereby hangs a tale, to which we shall subsequently return. As it was, Wimbledon won with the only goal of the game, volleyed home right-footed by an un-

seen away by Remy Garde, Arsenal's French defender. Defender? Well may you ask what the little man was doing in the back three, faced by such towering heavyweights as Marcus Gayle and Efan Ekoku, switched by Kinnear from the right flank into the middle, while Ardley returned on the wing.

But Keown was suspended, Adams was injured and, soon after half-time, Steve Bould, the other member of the usual trio, limped off. Why he was not withdrawn at the interval when so clearly in difficulties remains a mystery.

So there was Garde, signed from Strasbourg shortly before Arsène Wenger took over as the Arsenal manager. If Garde is anything at all, he is a midfielder player. But, with Bould off the field, the Arsenal back three — it might have been more sensible to have switched to a back four — consisted of Garde and two other reserves, Marshall and Morrow. Those who fondly remember the old nearby Finsbury Park Empire speculated that, by the end, the trio might well consist of Wilson, Kippie and Betty.

Back to the goal. Kimble took the corner Bould headed away, but not far enough. Fear, deputising for Leonhardsen, mis-kicked. Ardley crossed and Jones, as we know, thunderously did the rest.

For obscure reasons, the Gunners, since the latter days of George Graham — when he delighted in snubbing Paul Davis — have abandoned their tradition of a general to run the midfield. First, there was Charlie Buchan. Then, most inventive of all, there was the marvellous little Scotsman, Alex James. After the war, we saw Jimmy Logie,

| ARSENAL | WIMBLEDON |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 0 | 1 |
| Attendance: 37,654 | |

Jimmy Bloomfield, George Eastham, and Liam Brady. And now? A void.

To be fair, things might have been quite different had Ian Wright scored in the thirteenth minute. Bould hit a long ball through the middle. Wright dashed on to it, shot without ceremony, and the ball cannoned off a post.

Did this demoralise Wright? Was he subdued by all that controversy over his clashes with Peter Schmeichel? Wenger, busy last week defending the indefensible, suggested that Wright had not had enough help.

In the event, most of the danger to Wimbledon came from the Dutchman. Dennis Bergkamp, though two of Arsenal's best attempts came in the second half from their adventurous wing back, Nigel Worthington. Each time, he was frustrated by Sullivan.

Long, long ago, Arsenal had a defender such as Leslie Compton playing seven years in their reserves, while twice appearing in trials for England. Happy days. Yesterday,

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Wimbledon showed how much more provident they are by bringing on so covered a striker as Dean Holdsworth just before the end.

"I've had so much confidence in the side," Kinnear said. "The squad system is working very well."

Wenger put Arsenal's defeat down chiefly to their exertions against Manchester United last Wednesday. "Maybe we are a little bit short in the squad," he said, "but the schedule of the Premiership is not right. To create a regular competition, you need to have everybody playing on the same day and not when it suits them. My players have given everything, and in the second half, we didn't have the physical freshness to score."

Stark contrast with Kinnear, who is only too glad to face such a plethora of fixtures, knowing that it is the consequence — or, as he idiosyncratically put it, "the victim" — of Wimbledon's success. This, he told us, was a far more benign kind of pressure than not being able to sleep at night, when the team is near the bottom of the table.

Whistling in the wind, Wenger said that all those injuries and suspensions constituted "a good chance for young players to play". Which begs the question of which young players. Though Arsenal were able to present Nicolas Anelka, the brilliant French teenager whom they have fished from under the nose of Paris Saint-Germain. He should, Wenger said, be ready in a couple of weeks.

"I didn't expect us to create as many chances as we did," Kinnear admitted, and their name was legion, for they were many.

Just before half-time, Robbie Earle's header gave

Ardley a point-blank chance only for him to mis-hit. Five minutes into the second half, Earle's header was only just wide. Seventeen minutes from time, Earle powerfully won a tackle with Vieira and put Ardley through. Ekoku put his pass only just wide.

Four minutes later came, perhaps, Wimbledon's best move of the match. Gayle began it with a fine pass to Ekoku. Ekoku crossed. Ardley shot. Lukic blocked. Gayle turned up in the goalmouth to shoot again, but again the drive was blocked in extremis, this time by the resourceful Morrow. A dozen minutes from the end, Gayle had

Mastery wasted 28
New breed delivers 29
Results and tables 30
Vale of tears 31

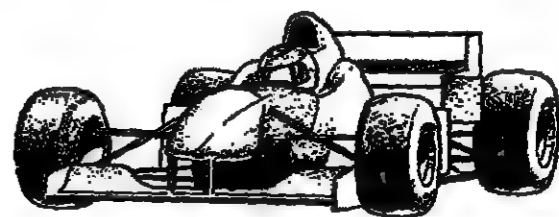
another chance, only to be blocked by Lukic.

Arsenal had their opportunities. In the first half, Sullivan blocked from Merson and saved a header by Dixon. In the second, early on, he dived to catch Bergkamp's long shot and later turned another drive round the post. There were also those two saves from Winterburn.

But there we are. Wimbledon so seldom lose at Highbury and, if Wenger is unsure what goes on after games in the tunnel, his team now have a dark one indeed from which to emerge.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): J. Lukic — S. Bould (sub S. Morrow, 46min), R. Gardo (sub P. Shaw, 70), S. Marsh (sub L. Dixon, P. Merson, R. Foster (sub S. Hughes, 40), P. Vidler, N. Winterburn — I. Wright, D. Bergkamp
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, M. Perry, J. Kinnear — V. Jones (sub E. McGee, 57), O. Leonardson (sub P. Fear, 14), R. Earle, N. Ardley — E. Ekoku, M. Gayle (sub D. Morrow, 85)
Referee: P. Jones

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Jones and Gayle celebrate the Wimbledon winner

هكذا من الاصل

Eurosport need doubles partner for Mercer

If this was Henmanmania, it was definitely the subdued version. The Antwerp crowd could barely raise a synchronised clap, poor David Mercer was all on his lonesome on Eurosport and the Belgian television producer was having trouble concentrating.

On Friday it was pretty girls wearing peak caps that distracted the cameras. "Not sure about the uniforms," but they're certain to get some attention," Mercer predicted accurately. They featured in every interval in the first set. On Saturday it was latecomers. There was no sneaking in at the back in Antwerp — smile, you're on pan-European television. Yesterday it was a toss-up between Marc Rosset's red tennis shoes (apparently they remind him of the Swiss national flag, "Mer-

cer said) and the girls in the peaked caps again. It was amazing that we got to see any tennis at all.

But we did, and while the result did not go the right way in the final yesterday, it was still a weekend that showed satellite television almost at its best. Not with big blockbuster events, but simply by having the flexibility to show live sport as it happens, whenever it happens. If Nick Knight wanted to thump the winning four at 4.55am then Sky would show it and, hopefully, there were a few others apart from me watching it.

Eurosport, however, seemed a bit slow to recognise the opportunity it had been blessed with when Tim Henman suddenly became the only seed to make it into the quarter-finals of the European Community championship.



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Not only did it have live and exclusive coverage of quarter-finals, semi-finals and final, all three Henman games were in weekend prime-time. The Paris-based channel has already learned what effect Henman's presence has on its ratings in Britain.

Mercer could have done with some support. It's not that he did badly. He was thoroughly researched, impressively objective and unbeatable on players' companions. "That's Lucy, Tim's girlfriend," Mercer told

us, as the Belgian producer finally tore himself away from another close-up of Rosset's shoes. "It was her birthday on Friday."

We are accustomed, however, to having pairs of commentators for all sports these days and Mercer was badly in need of a second voice; somebody to talk technique and tactics with; somebody to give him, and us, a break. With more and more of Eurosport's commentators commendably reporting from site rather than from its Paris studios, finding

enough competent people is an expensive problem for a channel providing commentary in an ever growing number of languages. That, however, is not our problem. There will be many times when the satellite channel will get away with having lone commentators. But, for the time being, Henman in the final of any tournament is not one of them.

Buoyed (slightly) by Henman's less than convincing semi-final on Saturday afternoon, I determined to make an Amphipodan night of it on Sky. After all, there is only a couple of weekends until the Australian Grand Prix. I needed the practice... rather badly as it turned out.

Sky is absolutely wedded to commentary partnerships, so the evening began with Bob Willis and Ian Botham, which is not the most fun you will

ever hear on television. After that it was the excellent Mark Nicholas and the equally impressive New Zealander, Ian Smith. Then it was Paul Allott and Botham... and then, suddenly, it was 4.30am, England were 90-something for three and somehow needed less than 40 runs off ten overs. Very gently, Allott and Smith — presumably for the sake of insomniacs who happened to be joining them at that ungodly hour — explained about the rain. Suddenly, falling asleep did not seem such a bad move.

I blame the lack of rousing rock music for my poor showing, for despite Nicholas promising us at the outset that this was "razzmatazz at its very best", I had forgotten that you hardly get to hear any of it on Sky. Once a wicket falls, it's one replay and straight into an ad break. Sweet dreams.

CRICKET: HUSSAIN AT THE HELM AS TOURING SIDE MAKE SHORT WORK OF RAIN-REDUCED TARGET

Knight sees England home and dry

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN AUCKLAND

AUCKLAND (New Zealand won toss; England beat New Zealand by six wickets)

ONLY a cricketing dinosaur could argue against the legitimate role of the modern one-day game. At its best, it can excite, entertain and attract previously untapped audiences; but, on days like this, it can insult the intelligence and defy serious analysis.

Auckland, a city that last month treated a gripping Test match with indifference, had been working itself into a lather about this international. The cricket was a mere accessory to the rock'n'roll and the partying, which was just as well as it turned out, because a combination of untimely rain and unfair regulations reduced the match to a cheap, irrelevant imitation.

Rain began to fall on an Eden Park crowd of 25,000 with England, needing 254 to win, 47 without loss after six overs. After several abortive attempts to restart, the umpires were ready to abandon the day on the advice of the groundsmen, a decision that would have involved an entirely new match being started, doubtless before a virtually empty ground, this morning.

That fate, at least, was averted as Nasser Hussain, captaining England for the first time while Michael Atherton rested his recurrently stiff back, employed skills of oratory to persuade the umpires that there was still time to complete what the regulations deemed to be a proper match. "There was a big crowd here and you have to say the umpires did the right thing," Hussain said, "but it was difficult for them."

England were thus set to score 132 from 26 overs, or a further 85 from the remaining 20. The revision itself was enough to eliminate New Zealand's prospects, but they were further handicapped by the stipulation that they must still retain nine men, and two close catchers, in the fielding circle for a full 15 overs. Once they were bowled, of course, the game was as good as over.

Despite making some needless and counterproductive changes to the batting order, England achieved their modest mission in a canter and there were still 6.3 overs to bowl when Nick Knight struck three consecutive fours as a climax to an unbeaten 84 from 69 balls.

It was a fourth consecutive international win for England, who now lead 2-0 in the one-day series with three games to play. The buoyant players can simply deposit the experience in their growing bank of confidence, but, for everyone else, from those in



Knight, in punishing mood, crashes the ball through the off side during his match-winning innings of 84 not out. Photograph: Clive Mason / Allsport

opposition to those who paid to watch, it was profoundly unsatisfying, an exposition of just how farcical a one-day game can be once it is shortened.

New Zealand are worthy of only limited sympathy, for Lee Gernon, now a seriously beleaguered captain, made the extraordinary decision to bat first. He knew that rain was confidently forecast for later in the day and that, under the regulations in use, any reduction would be to the benefit of the side batting second. He chose to ignore it.

Hussain could hardly believe his luck. Having been thrust into the captaincy at half-an-hour's notice, he was now being donated a potentially decisive advantage. He wasted no time telling television interviewers that he would have bowled first anyway, then had temporary cause to regret it as his seam bowlers allowed New Zealand to set off at six runs an over.

In sapping humidity, the white ball swung lavishly and England failed to control it, contributing 16 wickets. Initially their fielding was also slapdash, yet they stayed in the game by taking wickets regularly as the New Zealanders' inability to forge significant partnerships continued to inhibit them. On a sound pitch,

| New Zealand won toss | | NEW ZEALAND | |
|--|-----|---|--|
| B A Young c Stewart b Irani | 48 | 6-202 (Cairns 65), 7-219 (Patel 3), 8-253 (Larson 12) | |
| WJ Irani c Stewart b Mulheir | 4 | SCW: Irani 10-0-41-0 (1st 2, w: 1; 1st, 3 runs, 4-0-18-0, 6-0-33-0; Mulheir 7-0-38-1 (w: 1; 1st, 3 runs; 2-0-18-1, 5-0-18-0; Gough 6-0-25-2 (w: 1; 1st, 2 runs, 4-0-17-0, 2-0-16-2; Gough 10-0-45-1 (1st 2, w: 3; 8 runs, 3-0-17-0, 4-0-22-1, 3-0-25-0; Irani 7-0-26-1 (1st, 1 run, 5-0-15-1, 8-0-13-0; Croft 10-1-33-0 (1st 1, 1 run, one spell) | |
| A C Pearce run out (Irani) | 2 | Score after 15 overs: 81 for 2 | |
| S P Fleming c Gough b Gough | 42 | | |
| G Larnach run out (Croft) | 79 | | |
| C Z Harris c sub (C White) b Gough | 14 | | |
| D N Patel run out (Caddick/Stewart) | 24 | | |
| G R Larsen not out | 12 | | |
| Bates (lb 9 w 16, nb 4) | 29 | | |
| Total (6 wickets, 60 overs, 212min) | 280 | | |
| S B Doull and H T Davis did not bat | | | |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24 (Young 13), 2-34 (Young 28), 3-56 (Fleming 25), 4-128 (Cairns 21), 5-189 (Cairns 53) | | | |

with two short boundaries and a fast outfield, the best stand of the innings was only 52 and the situation was never out of England's control.

Having belatedly and erroneously omitted Philip Tufnell, it was Robert Croft, the remaining spin bowler, who applied brakes to the innings. Ronnie Irani, almost playing by memory, also bowled a commendably tight line until developing cramp, and, although Chris Cairns played assertively for 79, in-

cluding three sixes, his run out with four overs remaining was somehow typical of New Zealand's failure to finish whatever they started.

Gernon said that he was happy with 253 but not, I imagine, as happy as England. Knight and Alex Stewart launched the reply as if they thought 30 overs should be sufficient. Simon Doull's opening over comprised six long hops and brought 15 runs and it was New Zealand who were keenest to leave the field

when the weather turned. The public address thundered out Supertramp's *It's Raining Again*, Bruce Hornsby's *Mandolin Rain* and endless other weather-orientated songs. The dice jockey had plainly expected the worst, even if Gernon had not. He tried to retrieve the situation by demonstrating to the umpires just how wet the outfield had come, but even the silver-tongued contest was won by Hussain.

By the time that England lost a wicket, Stewart curious-

ly adjudged leg before to a ball plainly missing leg stump, they had reached 86 in the eleventh over. The promotion of Croft and Irani, theoretically in case of more rain, was misguided and, soon, England had contrived to lose four wickets for 14.

It was, however, always beyond New Zealand, for Knight was playing with a conviction that he last showed during his valiant 96 not out in the Bulawayo Test match two months ago. Even the bizarre intervention of one more drinks break, after only ten overs and with just 23 runs needed, could not summon the weather to save them.

Gernon, looking as emotional as a man in fear of his position has a right to do, was justifiably critical of the regulations that contributed to the result. "The law is an ass," he said. Hussain summed it up from England's viewpoint: "When you're on a bit of a run, things like this go your way."

The most apt commentary on it all, though, was provided by the DI, who clearly has a sense of the ridiculous judging by his choice of a song to play the teams off.

"Grooving on a Sunday afternoon," came over the speakers. "Grooving, couldn't get away too soon."

Sorenstam savours flying start to season

ANNIKA SORENSTAM won the Hawaiian Women's Open by one stroke from Meg Mallon to record her second victory in three tournaments on the United States Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour this year. Sorenstam, of Sweden, had a round of 73, one over par, to record a final score of 206 at the Kapaloe course.

Sorenstam's start to the season is the best on the Tour since Beth Daniel won twice in the first five events of 1990. "I'm amazed," Sorenstam said, after surviving a bogey on the 18th hole. "I have the right frame of mind. I hope this momentum continues." Mallon had a final round of 70, but her challenge faded with bogeys on the 17th and 18th holes. The next US LPGA event is the Australian Masters next week.

Maier makes his mark

SKIING: Hermann Maier, of Austria, captured his first World Cup victory when he won the super giant slalom in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday. Maier, who missed the recent world championships with a broken arm, beat Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, by more than two seconds in a time of 1min 21.64sec, while two Norwegians, Ole Skarvald and Lasse Kjus, shared third place after completing their runs down the 2,070-metre Kandahar course in identical times of 1min 22.5sec. Luc Alphand, of France, who won the downhill race on Saturday, finished sixth and extended his overall World Cup lead.

Christie wins on grass

ATHLETICS: Linford Christie, right, competing on grass for the first time since his school days, won a \$120,000 race over 120 metres in Botany Bay, Sydney, yesterday. Christie, the former Olympic 100 metres champion, picked up \$21,000 (about £10,000), winning in 12.03sec from Tony Marshall, of Australia. Darren Campbell, of Great Britain, finished third.



Price savours victory

GOLF: Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, promised himself a holiday after beating David Frost in a play-off in the Alfred Dunhill PGA in South Africa. Price had a nervous wait after a final round of 66 for 269 as Frost fought back to level matters with a birdie on the 18th — and force Price back on to the Houghton Golf Club course. Price made par at the first play-off hole to beat Frost after the latter missed his putt.

Whitakers lead way

EQUESTRIANISM: John Whitaker, on Virtual Village Granusch, just pipped Michael, his brother, for first place as he led a remarkable clean sweep by British riders in the Volvo World Cup qualifier in Bologna, Italy, yesterday. Geoff Billington was third and Robert Smith fourth in a 12-horse jump off. It was the second win in the qualifying series this season for John Whitaker.

England lose record

RUGBY UNION: The England women's team suffered their first defeat since 1991 when France sneaked a 17-15 victory — their first over England — at Franklins Gardens yesterday. Nathalie Amiel scored the match-winning try in the 73rd minute to crown a memorable individual performance that included creating a try for Bertrand, the No 8.

Muggeridge thrown out

BADMINTON: Jo Muggeridge, right, England's most successful women's singles player for much of the past four years, has been thrown out of the national training squad after a row with Steve Baddeley, the England manager. The disagreement, which ended with Muggeridge tipping a can of drink over Baddeley's head, was over Muggeridge's level of fitness.



French are mustard

SAILING: A tight finish is likely between Herve Laurent and Marc Thiercelin, the Frenchmen, in the Vendée Globe non-stop single-handed race round the world as they challenge for second place behind Christophe Auguin, who won on *Géodis*. Yesterday Laurent had only 680 miles to go to the finish at Les Sables d'Olonne and Thiercelin had 710 still to complete.

South spurred by Stearn

LACROSSE: South became the women's territorial champions in convincing style when they won all their five games over two weekends, finishing with a 16-1 victory against British Universities, a 7-6 success over East and a 15-0 defeat of Midlands at Weybridge yesterday. Their only possible threat was East, who went 2-0 up early in the game, but Di Stearn settled the match with the winning goal.

SNOW REPORTS

| | Depth (cm) | Conditions | Runs to resort | Weather (5pm) | Last snow |
|-------------|------------|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| ANDORRA | | | | | |
| Soldeu | 40 | 180 good heavy | fair | fine | 1 15/2 |
| | | (Spring-like conditions still mostly good) | | | |
| AUSTRIA | | | | | |
| Obertauern | 40 | 180 good heavy | good | sun | 2 21/2 |
| | | (Superb skiing conditions everywhere) | | | |
| St. Anton | 25 | 60 good heavy | fair | sun | 5 19/2 |
| | | (Warm sunshine, some slush on south-facing runs) | | | |
| FRANCE | | | | | |
| Alpe d'Huez | 115 | 280 good heavy | good | sun | 5 19/2 |
| | | (Brilliant sunshine affecting some low pistes) | | | |
| Val d'Isère | 115 | 210 good varied | good | fine | 4 20/2 |
| | | (Good skiing in warm sunshine) | | | |
| ITALY | | | | | |
| Livigno | 80 | 200 good varied | good | sun | 3 20/2 |
| | | (Good skiing on most pistes, some icy spots low down) | | | |
| NORWAY | | | | | |
| Gaio | 60 | 70 fat varied slushy | fair | 2 21/2 | |
| | | (Pistes holding up but surfaces slightly slushy) | | | |
| SWITZERLAND | | | | | |
| Wengen | 10 | 100 good varied | slushy | sun | 5 19/2 |

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SNOKER: SCOT DISMISSES DRAGO TO KEEP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN HIS SIGHTS

Hendry's timing proves impeccable

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY, the winner of the International Open title in Aberdeen on Saturday, flies to Malta today for the European Open unconcerned that recent success, allied with a hectic schedule, could lead to burn-out before the world championship.

Hendry again underlined his position as the dominant force in the sport by trouncing Tony Drago 9-1 to win the first world-ranking tournament staged in Scotland.

It was his 28th triumph in a ranking event, equalling the record set by Steve Davis

The £60,000 first prize swelled Hendry's prize-money, during a season in which he has already lifted trophies at the United Kingdom championship, Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge and Regal Welsh Open, to £295,530.

Hendry's only defeat at the Crucible Theatre in the 1990s came six years ago when, after a similarly taxing campaign, he arrived at the game's premier competition decidedly jaded and was beaten 13-11 by Steve James in the quarter-finals.

"I've become a lot more experienced since then and

"Anyway, whenever you go to Sheffield, you get a real buzz simply from being there."

Hendry, who meets Jamie Burnett, his Scottish compatriot, in the first round of the European Open at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, tomorrow evening, has lost only one of his past 21 matches in ranking tournaments. As a consequence, he has established a healthy buffer zone between himself and the chasing pack at the head of the provisional world rankings.

Ruthlessly exploiting Drago's susceptibility to un-

was the swiftest victory recorded in a best-of-17 frame final.

A break of 90 from Hendry in the first frame, after Drago had wasted two clear-cut openings, set the pattern and he added further contributions of 128, 94, 78, 55, 48, 42 twice and 40.

Even so, with the world's elite 16 players joined by 16 qualifiers for the final phase of the European Open, the first of successive overseas events followed almost immediately by the Thailand Open, Hendry will be forced to maintain the same high standard for his purple patch to

Henma
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TENNIS: BIG-HITTING ROSSET TEACHES BRITON UNCOMFORTABLE LESSON IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Henman fails to make final breakthrough

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN ANTWERP

THE faces of John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras looked down from the walls of the Sports Palace in Antwerp, beckoning Tim Henman into an exclusive band of past champions. Four Wimbledon champions—and two finalists—have won this tournament

down the years, but Henman will have to wait his turn. Henman was beaten 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 by Marc Rosset, the Swiss, and left Antwerp for his next stop, in Milan, with a silver tray instead of a gold-plated racket and more than a few problems to sort out in his game. The positive point, as Henman said, was that he reached the final of the European Community championship and earned a handy \$55,000 (about £33,000) without playing at his best. Henman will move up in the world rankings close to his career best of No 14, but much of the form that took him to his first ATP Tour title, in Sydney, and his first final, in Doha, has temporarily deserted him.

"I've been mentally and physically strong and I've kept battling," he said. However, against a player of Rosset's power and experience, simple scrapping proved inadequate. No part of his game worked to order. His first service was erratic, his ground strokes off both wings were woefully insecure and his tactics questionable.

Instead of manoeuvring his 6ft 7in opponent around the court, he lost patience too often and tried to outhit him from

the back of the court. On the one occasion that he worked his way into the net, early in the second set, he won solid approval from David Felgate, his coach. However, in the face of some forceful serving, he could not capitalise on the moment.

To be fair to Henman, who is playing only his third Tour and first best-of-five set final, Rosset is an awkward customer at the best of times. Nobody, least of all, you



Rosset powerful

suspect, Rosset himself, knows quite what is coming next. On his bad days, Rosset, the former Olympic champion, can be awful; at his best, he is a match for anyone. This was one of his better days, particularly on his first service.

Whenever Henman had a glimmer of an opportunity, Rosset rummaged through his service locker and produced a winner. He served 16 aces, the last to win the match after 2hr 09min, many of the 2hr

ones to ward off break points. Henman managed to convert only one of his seven break points, and that was deep into the third set when the match was all but lost. Though ranked four places above Rosset, Henman was not the first to find out that Rosset is not easily quantified.

"I looked at his service statistics and he did not seem to be making many first serves," Henman said, "but, on almost every big point, he came up with something and they come down from all sorts of heights. It makes life very difficult." Henman's one and only break came after an hour and 50 minutes, when he was two sets and a break down.

Not that Henman helped himself. Long before the end, Jane, his mother, watching from the side of the court, must have wished that she had stayed at home to watch her husband play his squash match. So out of sorts was her son that his normally placid exterior evaporated into an angry slam of the racket in the fifth game of the second set that presumably did not merit a warning only because Lars Graf, the umpire, was as surprised as the rest of the crowd by such a show of temper. I swear that McEnroe smiled down in delight from his poster.

From the moment that Henman dropped his service, for the first five times in the match, in the third game, he seemed unusually ill at ease. Rosset, at 30, eight years older, also admitted to nerves, but controlled them better. Henman lost the first set in 29 minutes and, when he had three chances to break Rosset early in the second set, he was unable to control any of the three explosive first services. The decisive break came in the eleventh game when, from 40-15, he netted a routine backhand, overhit a volley, double-faulted and then, on a point that he for once dominated, casually pulled a forehand wide. After an hour and a half, Rosset served out to lead by two sets.

Two more double faults early in the third set effectively ended any lingering chance of a comeback and, though



Henman drives a fierce backhand from the baseline during his defeat yesterday

Henman did finally break back to level at 3-3 in the third set, Rosset broke for the final time with a backhand pass down the line in the next game. A first-service mark of 39 per cent told its own bleak story for Henman.

"There are not many plus points I can take from today,"

Henman said. "I might seem fairly philosophical about it all on the outside, but those close to me will see a different reaction. This hurts more than my defeat [by Jim Courier] in Doha, because I played a good match there."

Kindly, Rosset put his opponent's display down to inexperience. "He has not played many best-of-five set matches and it is small details like that which can make the difference," he said. Henman might, in time, take comfort from the knowledge that McEnroe also experienced defeat on his first visit to Antwerp, 15 years ago.

ATHLETICS

Mayock's trial tribulations tarnish record

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE British records fell yesterday and, deserving though the athletes were of applause, none is likely to win an individual medal at the world indoor championships in Paris next month without improving further. In the case of John Mayock, who set new figures for 3,000 metres, he is not even sure of a ticket for the team plane, let alone a medal.

However, Mayock's omission, should that prove the unlikely scenario, will be a minor controversy by comparison with one involving Ashia Hansen. She was only two centimetres away from providing Britain with a sixth national record yesterday but Malcolm Arnold, the head coach, was adamant that she would not be selected for Paris because she had not competed in the trials.

The Great Britain selectors announce their team today, having met last night after a highly successful climax to the Ricoh indoor grand prix in Birmingham. Spectators enjoyed the new made-for-television presentation, with flashing lights, music and game show-style introductions. Oh, yes, athletics as well.

In between the strains of Tina Turner, the Stones and others, the sport lived up to the prediction of Ian Stewart, the British Athletic Federation head of events, that this would be at least the equal of any previous indoor meeting in Britain. It may have lacked the one big memorable moment, but quality was in abundance.

Ato Boldon, from Trinidad, the Olympic 100 and 200 metres bronze medal-winner, was the athlete of the meeting. He won the 60 and 200 metres, in 6.49 seconds and 20.35, then said he intended to "throw a monkey-wrench in the works" of the fastest-man-in-the-world race between Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey next May by breaking the 100 metres world record in April.

The standard was such that, for much of the afternoon, there was no sign of a British winner in an international event, although there were the records: Donna Fraser, winning a domestic 200 metres in 20.96sec; Mayock, fourth in the 3,000 metres in 7min 43.31sec; Debbie Marti, second in the high jump with 1.95 metres; Janine Whitlock, third

in the pole vault with 3.90 metres; Phyllis Smith, second in the 400 metres in 51.69sec; shaving 0.01sec off Sally Gunnell's record.

Gunnell, though fourth, confirmed she would compete in Paris, mainly because Britain has a strong 4 x 400 metres relay team, especially in view of the form of Fraser and Smith. Fraser, who clipped 0.04sec off Katharine Merry's British record, has hitherto been regarded as a 400 metres athlete.

British victories came with a rush in the closing events,



Boldon: sprint double

from Jamie Baulch in the 400 metres, in 45.74sec. Steve Smith in the high jump, with 2.34 metres, and Hansen, with 14.57 metres, Baulch is the one outstanding hope of an individual gold medal in Paris, with Smith the next best bet. Other than these two, only Hansen carries the gold standard.

Arnold, though, was adamant that athletes who missed the trials should be omitted, unless they had been ill, informed the federation and supplied a doctor's note. Hansen had not, Mayock had.

However, Mayock's selection is not that simple. Ian Gillespie broke Stewart's 25-year Scottish record, with 7:49.86, but faces exclusion in favour of Mayock. The Yorkshireman said he sent a doctor's certificate to David Cropper, the chairman of selectors, and Cropper yesterday acknowledged receipt of it.

Mike Down, Gillespie's coach, is mystified. "I find it hard to believe that the chairman of selectors, chief national coach and promotions officer had no awareness of the doctor's note on the day of the trials," Down said.

GOLF: WOOLNOUGH CONQUERS HIGH WIND AND A LEGEND TO REACH THE SEMI-FINALS OF PUTTER

Dexter has no complaints about the 'boss'

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE wind continued to roar bearing both lark and sea to parts of the Rye Golf Club, but, for Ted Dexter, the oldest man in the quarter-finals, the President's Putter is over. Dexter was beaten by Andy Woolnough, 2 and 1, in an absorbing match in which the 35 years between them made little or no difference.

There were no complaints from the older man about the result. "He had a couple of three-putt errors that let me in, but there was never much

doubt who was the boss," Dexter said. Woolnough, the winner of this event in 1995, had had some misgivings about facing Dexter, who is 61. "I knew he was a steady player and very consistent, so I was pleased to hole some putts at the start," he said.

Woolnough, 26, seemed to have matters under control when he led by three holes at the turn, deftly getting down in two from the left of the 9th green. Then, however, a slack drive on the 10th, a nervous looking miss on the 11th and three more putts on the 13th allowed Dexter to draw level.

Down the years, Dexter's

ball striking has been a by-word among the members of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, rather like his cars. It was, however, the way that Woolnough struck his second shot to the 12th with a driver, his three-iron to the

Scores 37

13th, his tee shot with a four-iron to the 14th, his three-iron second shot to the 15th and the stroke played with a driver from the 17th tee to within ten feet of the flag that caught the eye. These were the strokes of

a man who is good enough to try for a living as a professional, even if he has not yet made it and even if he is probably a little too short off the tee to do so.

John Nash faced a four-foot putt on the 15th to go to one up against Charlie Rotheroe, the champion. Nash missed that, but clipped wonderfully from the 17th tee to save the 16th. He appeared to have taken the initiative on the 17th, when his tee shot struggled to the edge of the green while Rotheroe's ran into a bunker.

Within the space of the next two strokes, this match altered completely. First, Nash's sec-

ond shot ended well short of the hole. Then, Rotheroe got out to six feet and, after Nash had missed for a three, holed his putt to go one up. A ten-foot putt on the 18th gave him victory by two holes and the reward of a match against Woolnough this morning.

In the bottom half, Richard Sanders, having escaped from three down with four to play to win on the last against William Dugdale in the morning, was unable to reproduce such an escape after lunch. He lost to Jamie Warman. Simon Ellis, the captain of the Tonbridge Halford Hewitt team, beat Mark Benka.

HOCKEY: NATIONAL LEAGUE SURPRISE PACKAGE CANTERBURY BOW OUT OF HA CUP

Gritty Chelmsford upset the odds

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANTERBURY, the surprise package of the National League, made an unexpected exit from the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup yesterday with a 2-1 defeat at Chelmsford, one of the leading teams in the Adams East League.

Canterbury made a promising start with a goal in the eighth minute by Hollingworth, but Chelmsford hit back a minute before half-time with an equaliser by Thorogood, and then went

ahead in the 49th minute when Hawkins converted a short corner.

Chelmsford's defence was put under pressure by Canterbury, who forced 15 short corners, all of which came to nothing as the home side held on to their advantage with great determination.

Old Loughtonians battled to a 2-1 home win over injury-hit Hounslow. A facial injury suffered by Nurse, Hounslow's short corner specialist, then added to their problems. Old Loughtonians led 2-0 at half-time through goals by

Bloor and Halls from short corners. Another short corner goal by Bloor early in the second half was disallowed for a foot infringement, after which Hounslow fought back and they eventually reduced

Results 37

the deficit seven minutes from time when Owen Jones converted a penalty stroke.

Southgate surprisingly lost 3-2 to Surbiton, for whom Mark Owen scored the win-

ning goal in extra time after the teams shared four goals in normal time. Elsewhere there were comfortable victories for Cannock, Teddington and Guildford, but St Albans were pushed hard by Hampstead and Westminster, scoring their second and third goals in a 3-2 win when the opposition were down to nine men.

After Saturday's matches in the National League, the top of the Premier Division remained unaltered with the top four teams, Teddington, Cannock, Reading and East Grinstead, all winning.

It took a Hightown goal, courtesy of Yana Williams, to kick Ipswich into top gear and from there they never looked back. At half-time, they were 3-1 ahead, thanks to a penalty corner from Kirsten Spencer, a penalty stroke from Sandie Lister and an individual effort from Leica King. Tracy Fry, Sarah Bamfield and Vicky Sandall added the other goals.

Ipswich, meanwhile, took full advantage of Slough's absence, to race to the top of the National Outdoor League table. When the league went into its winter recess at the start of December, Ipswich were in second place in the

BOWLS

Cumbrian recovery halts Kent

ON ONE of the busiest weekends on the bowling calendar, Cumbria staged a remarkable comeback against Kent, who held a 25-shot lead after ten ends, to reach the final of the Liberty Trophy (David Rhys Jones writes). In the final they will meet Nottingham, at Melton Mowbray, on April 13.

In Belfast, Ireland won the Waterford Crystal Trophy and Llanelli lifted the Greengauge Welsh inter-club title at Cynon Valley. Yesterday Teignbridge and North Walsham were the first clubs through to the semi-finals of the national mixed inter-club championship, with victories over Dolphin and Handy Cross, respectively.

Llanelli's victory over a clutch of ambitious crown green bowlers from the Prestatyn-based Firth club gave them the Welsh club title for the second time in three years.

In Scotland, Prestwick retained their CIS Insurance Seniors Scottish League title when they hit back to beat Midlothian 62-56 at Paisley.

BASKETBALL

Bullets shoot to summit

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR a team that seems to spend half its week on the treatment table, Birmingham Bullets are not doing too badly. Play-off champions last spring, the Bullets took over as outright leaders of the Budweiser League for the first time by playing through the pain for a 110-96 victory away to Worthing Bears on Saturday.

The main problem for Nick Nurse, the club's conscientious coach, is not so much rival teams but the fitness of his own. "We can do it so long as we stay healthy," Nurse said, knowing that his players are at present anything but fully fit.

Tony Dorsey, the league's leading scorer, contributed another 34 points, but he has, according to Harry Wrublewski, the Birmingham chairman, "a knee that needs to be

operated on and an ankle, looking like a football, that badly needs to be looked at".

Fabulous Flournoy has been down with flu and Scott Wilke suffering from a temperature of 103F. "That's the spirit! Nick brings out in people," Wrublewski said. "No one wants to lie down and miss games."

Billy Ross became a further casualty when he was poked in the eye before the Bullets could secure their tenth successive win.

It was while Ross, the high-scoring guard, was recovering that the Bears assembled a 13-0 burst, reducing arrears of 70-56 to a single point. Ross duly returned, his eyesight clearly none too impaired, to score three more three-pointers in the final quarter, taking him to eight in all and a tally

of 30 points, three more than Nigel Lloyd.

The main threats to Bullets had come from Cleave Lewis and James Hamilton, the scorers of 24 points apiece for the Bears, who could not quite accomplish the kind of shock results that were achieved by Leicester Riders and Crystal Palace.

Beaten in all five previous games by Chester Jets, Leicester won 105-87 to virtually end their title hopes. Leon McGee, who finished with 34 points, led the way with three early three-pointers among the nine that Leicester managed from 11 attempts inside the first 15 minutes.

Leicester's win and Derby Storm's 105-95 home defeat by Palace meant that Derby are favourites to miss out on the eighth qualifying place for the play-offs.

NETBALL

England aim is world No 1

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

FIFTY leading England netball coaches, players and administrators spent the weekend fine-tuning a world-class performance plan, designed to lift England from its present world No 4 ranking to No 1 by 2003.

Fiona Murtagh, the England captain, Kendra Slawinski, a former captain, Liz Brownhead, the England coach, and Liz Nicholl, the All England Netball Association chief executive, were joined by a sprinkling of counterparts from other sports at this quasi-brains trust in London. Netball administrators have already presented the blueprint to the Sports Council in an application for future National Lottery revenue funding. England youth coach Rachel Foley said the conference was a welcome forum in

which to examine future competitive opportunities for juniors. Foley said there was a lack of serious competition for the under-16 squad, a point highlighted by victories against Wales (56-27) and the Republic of Ireland (44-6) in a tournament this month.

Those three nations regularly play each other at youth level, leaving England youngsters untested and relatively untested at the end of each season, according to Foley.

"England were confident throughout the triangular tournament," she said. "We all know that the home countries lack the resources to develop their game. However, for our future England senior players, the lack of tough competition severely limits the sort of experience that is required."

Touring the world's top three nations, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, has largely been out of the question for junior England squads because of the costs involved, but the conference explored ways of overcoming this.

The AENA also hopes newly formed netball area performance centres would be incorporated in a British academy of sport, should it get off the ground.

It is anticipated that each England player may be eligible for £28,000 a year through lottery funding on the basis that the team is fourth in the world and, therefore, "world class". The conference proposed that leading players be counselled in areas including time management and media relations.

FOOTBALL: ANFIELD PREMIERSHIP PRETENSIONS DENTED BY BLACKBURN'S DETERMINED DEFENCE

Liverpool's mastery counts for nought

Liverpool 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

BY PETER BALL

IF LIVERPOOL fail to win the FA Carling Premiership, Blackburn Rovers will figure prominently in the post-mortem examination. In November Blackburn marked the start of their revival under Tony Parkes with a comprehensive victory at Ewood Park; on Saturday, at the end of another eventful week in east Lancashire, they hung on staunchly to secure a draw at Anfield.

If anything, the game on Saturday might prove the more significant and not just because it prevented Liverpool from overtaking Manchester

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

United. "Gary Filcroft [the Blackburn midfielder] said to me 'You could be 6-0 up,'" Jamie Redknapp said afterwards, and Filcroft's testimony revealed the extent of Liverpool's domination, grittily as Hendry and his cohorts resisted.

There, though, is the rub. It is a football cliché that championship winners get results when not playing well. On Saturday Liverpool played excellently and still did not win. They have now dropped 15 points at home.

The two points lost on Saturday were not just down to heroics in the Blackburn defence, where Hendry breathed defiance, Berg was calm and steady and in front of them, McKinlay made as many tackles and interceptions in one game as David Batty does in a month. "Hendry and Berg are an awesome pairing," Tim Flowers, the goalkeeper, said.



Blackburn's resolve is evident as Collymore attempts to break through for Liverpool at Anfield. Photograph: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

For all that, Liverpool created a handful of chances. In the first half Flowers had a miserable time in the swirling wind, misjudging several crosses. He was unlucky with one, which brought him a booking for inadvertently handling the ball outside the penalty area — a harsh decision by Martin Bodenham, the referee who saw no evil in Ian Wright's challenge last Wednesday.

That, however, was the extent of Flowers' bad luck. He made a fine save from a free kick by Redknapp, but his struggles in the air should have seen Liverpool home by half-time. From one cross by Redknapp, with Flowers stranded, Fowler headed against a post with the goal exposed; from another, with the goalkeeper again groping thin air, Mark Wright shot over. "A great chance, but somehow I seemed to kick it over the bar," Wright said.

That — with Fowler having a rare off day, missing five or six gilt-edged chances and having no luck when an effort curled round Flowers came

out off a post — was the story of Liverpool's afternoon. Collymore did not have a worthwhile opportunity; everybody else missed.

It could have been even worse for Liverpool, David James escaping the award of a penalty against him for bringing down Gallacher. "I can't say too much about the referee because he did give us a couple of throw-ins," Parkes said, "but we can't really grumble about anything today, because we've had the luck."

Who would deny them some fortune at the end of a trying week in which it was confirmed that Sven Goran Eriksson would not be joining them as manager? Parkes, who continues to matronise the club's recovery, said: "I'm the most successful caretaker-manager in history." So why not make it permanent?

"I think the club are looking for someone more long-term, looking for a bigger name who is going to buy big-name players and get the club back to what it was two years ago,"

Parkes said. It is tempting to say that, if Sir John Smith had thought that way, nobody would have heard of Bob Paisley, Blackburn, though, are not Liverpool and, with further rumblings of players wanting to follow Alan Shearer, a big-name manager might be necessary.

LIVERPOOL (3-1-2): D. James — B. James, M. Wright, D. Morrison — J. McAlister, J. Redknapp, J. Barnes, S. L. Brown — S. McKinnay — R. Fowler, S. Collymore. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-2-1): T. Flowers — J. Hendry, M. Berg, C. Hendry, G. Batty — I. Shearer, W. McEldowney, G. Filcroft — K. Gallacher, J. Wilson — C. Sutton (sub P. Pedersen, Smith). Referee: M. Bodenham.

Paying the price of pop star's celebrity status

Injuries and my manager permitting, I shall be attending the Brit awards this evening. I say this because I will be sharing a table with artists from the pop music world at the dinner and it is therefore very likely that I might get a bit of media attention because of it.

If I close my eyes and listen, I can hear now what people will say: "Footballers these days, they're like pop stars. Attending music award ceremonies instead of concentrating on football."

It's not like that, of course. More and more people are saying footballers get the same attention as pop stars, but that is ridiculous. We are professional sportsmen. We have to train, be fit and look after ourselves, otherwise we could not play at the top level.

I am going to the awards only because we at Liverpool have been given the day off, as we are not playing again until next Sunday. I am taking the chance — a rare one — to visit London to meet friends and business colleagues to catch up on various matters.

Yes, I do happen to share an adviser with the Spice Girls. And yes, I hope they are going to have a successful night. But no — before you ask — that is as far as our association goes. Of course, it will be a chance to relax as well, unwind away from football for a short while, and it shouldn't be too bad to be among the cream of the British pop business, but seriously, it is easy to criticise footballers for unwinding, but, done sensibly, it is, surely, a wise thing.

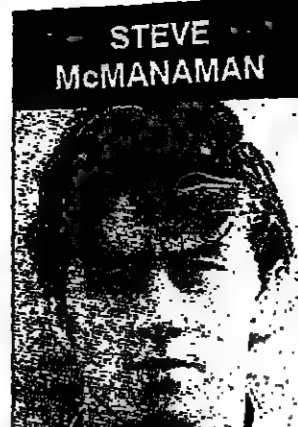
The pressures surrounding football are immense and to be immersed in that pressure constantly can have an adverse effect. I think that footballers have become far more high profile in the past ten years or so. This, I believe, is where the talk of us being like pop stars comes from.

We are recognised far more now than ever before. Indeed, our profile has gone through the roof. It is, of course, television that has given football this profile, because it has taken our game to a far wider audience. Television seems to offer instant fame these days to anyone broadcast on it.

After the European championship, we were recognised by people who had not been fans of the game before. It is a certain celebrity of sorts to be recognised like that, to be signing autographs all the time, but I don't feel much of a celebrity. I am a professional sportsman.

The problem is, we end up on the news pages because of that "celebrity", as well as the sports pages. It means that even going to an event like the Brit awards can bring adverse publicity, because you could be pictured with pop singers — and inferences can be drawn.

Things are frequently taken out of context. Think back, yet



STEVE McMANAMAN

awaits reaction to his visit to the Brit awards

again, to the England trip to Hong Kong — the only chance we had to unwind in six weeks between the end of the season and the start of the European championship. Nobody did anything more than relax and enjoy himself, and yet the pictures printed in the papers suggested that we started World War Three.

We did not go over the top, did not break curfews and a member of the management team was there to see us behave. Of course, footballers have to set an example and sometimes they can get it wrong, but like every other person, they need an outlet for the pressures that they are under.

Because of this scrutiny, I think we are under more pressure than ever. We are recognised everywhere we go. It's not so bad for me in Liverpool — in general, people leave me alone

and let me get on with my life because I am a local lad and even Everton supporters seem to accept me — but, when I go elsewhere, it can be difficult. In Ireland, it is amazing. We were in Dublin on one occasion, just doing a bit of shopping, and were mobbed in the street. It was like a scene out of a Beethames movie; we had to run to jump into a cab to escape.

It was the same in Hong Kong. Walking down the street became impossible, because so many people just wanted a piece of you. In China, too, even recognised on the Great Wall.

I do not mind. It is something that I have learnt to live with and handle ever since I was a teenager just getting into the reserve side. It just seems to come with the job. You learn how to deal with all the trappings, the celebrity, the media.

Nevertheless, it would be nice to think that I could go to a function to see a few friends and have a night off without any comment, but I know that someone, somewhere, will have something to say. The fact is that even footballers need other things to do with their time and, if they are sensible, then it shouldn't be a problem.

I was even recognised on the Great Wall

Scholar and Wray set to take over Forest

BY JASON NISSE

IRVING SCHOLAR, late of Tottenham Hotspur, and Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens, look certain to take control of Nottingham Forest tonight after their only remaining rivals bidding for the struggling FA Carling Premiership club gave up the fight yesterday.

The consortium led by Albert Scudino, a former press officer for Bill Clinton, was holed below the waterline when Mercury Asset Management, one of its two City backers, withdrew, professing the belief that market for football clubs was too high. Mercury was looking to invest now in the hope of floating Forest, but said it thought the market for football clubs would weaken over the next 18 months. A fourth bidder, Grant Bowley, also lost his backing earlier this month after posting an offer to Forest shareholders.

Scholar and Wray will now go forward with a bid that

ploughs £16 million into Forest and gives up to £3 million to the 209 shareholders, who have to vote by a 75 per cent majority to accept the deal. This is by no means certain, as the previous special general meeting, last month, threw out the £11 million offer from Sandy Anderson, the Rangers-supporting rail tycoon, after Scholar circulated a letter saying that he was able to come up with a higher bid.

The Scholar-Wray team, which also includes Phil Sow, the football author, and Nick Lesau, the property tycoon, have said that they want to float Forest later this year. However, City experts have expressed doubts about their abilities to do this.

NatWest, Forest's bankers, have agreed to extend the club's £7.5 million overdraft, which should allow the vast majority of the £16 million being put in to be given to Stuart Pearce, the player-manager, to buy players.

Nottingham Forest 0
Aston Villa 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

SAVO MILOSEVIC might have scored twice, but he missed in the first half and was given offside, controversially but not outrageously, in the second. So Villa got no goals and Forest survived. Today a shareholders' meeting may decide the fate of the club, let alone the team; and it is a team still in trouble.

On Saturday, with Stuart Pearce, the player-manager, suspended, and Ian Woan being sent on for too late, they just about survived. Pearce did not go to the press conference. Instead, he sent the team's fitness trainer, with the message: "We never played well at all, to be fair, but we've grinded [sic] out a result, and that's the kind of thing we've got to go on doing to the end of the season."

Had Milosevic scored when it seemed difficult to miss, all the grinding in the world would scarcely have sufficed.

Dwight Yorke, certainly, deserved a better response when, with 17 minutes played, he spun superbly between Phillips and Chettle, sped on towards goal and, unselfishly and precisely, laid the ball off to his left. Milosevic was all alone. The pass came to his favoured left foot but he hit it hopelessly wide.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said: "You've got to make the goalkeeper save it, and the goal would have been a good one for us." One good enough, no doubt, to have ensured eventual victory.

A few minutes from time, with Villa relentlessly calling the tune, Hasland, Forest's Norway midfielder, carelessly headed back, straight to Draper. On went the ball to Milosevic, Yorke and, in the goal zone, Milosevic again. He made contact and the ball found its way in, but the linesman's flag had already gone up.

"We didn't really see anything wrong with the goal," Little said. "The linesman said Dwight was offside, which we find hard to believe. We didn't

see any appeal from them, so it's a major disappointment to us. The lads were in charge of the game and we should have won."

So they should. Time and again Fernando Nelson and the tiny Alan Wright (why does he never play for England?), their adventurous wing backs, went flying down the flanks and Forest's defence held out at full stretch.

Nigel Clough, returning to the side, was a peripheral figure in midfield, whereas once upon a time their attacks swirled so dangerously around him.

In the second half Forest barely escaped when Milosevic, Wright (twice) and Yorke were involved in a movement down the left that ended with Wright squeezing the ball across from the byline. Draper got in a header that Chettle headed out from under the bar.

Forest did not have a shot on goal until the 57th minute, a weak one from Clough that gave Bosnich no trouble at all. Indeed, the only real save that the Villa goalkeeper had to

make was after fully 57 minutes. Clough found Bart-Williams on the left but Bosnich plunged on the drive.

Crossley, in Forest's goal, had been a great deal busier. When Townsend hit a loose ball, untypically, with his right foot, Crossley turned it for a corner. He did the same with Yorke's shot after a fine run and cross by Nelson.

Forest's defence never got to grips with Yorke, who combined great skill with power, flair and speed.

"We played well enough really to have got something," Little said. "We sensed it was a good day today to come here and play."

Pearce or no Pearce, a good few other teams are bound to think the same way. To stay in the FA Carling Premiership, Forest will have to do a great deal more grinding.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-2-3): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, S. Chettle, C. Cooper, D. Phillips — W. Clough, A. Hasland, C. Bart-Williams, S. Gemmill — D. Saunders, S. Ray (sub J. Wren, 77min). ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bosnich — V. Engvall, S. Shawcross (sub R. Schmechel, 47), G. Southgate — F. Nelson, I. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Townsend, A. Wright — D. Yorke, S. Milosevic. Referee: G. Barber.

Middlesbrough's call from the heart

Middlesbrough 0
Newcastle United 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

MOBILE phones, cars, jewellery and fizzy drinks are all advertised in the Middlesbrough programme. Also in there is a glum figure in monocone and beneath his wet weekend of a face it reads "Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you." The Samaritans clearly know how to select prime advertising sites.

Middlesbrough are now five points adrift of safety in the FA Carling Premiership and have won just two league matches in the past five months. If Bryan Robson, their manager, was to reach for the phone, he would lament his team's wretched luck and insist that his side is too enterprising, too resourceful, too damn good, in fact, for relegation.

All this is true, but it circumvents a classic piece of perverse football logic. This states that teams threatened by relegation shall outplay their opponents, but lose 1-0, or 2-1, depending on the mood of the gods. Middlesbrough were more fluid than Newcastle United, had a greater will-to-win and their composure, despite the frustration of not scoring, was commendable. The impression still remained, however, that, if the entire Newcastle team had decamped to the giant tanker moored on the River Tees just outside the ground, the Middlesbrough strikers would have still sliced their efforts into the seats.

Newcastle scored on their first proper attack. Lee bundled the ball forward and it fell into the path of Ferdinand. He controlled well and his shot went beyond Roberts, collided with the post and rolled over the line.

They might deny the claim,

but thereafter it looked suspiciously as if Newcastle were prepared to settle for a slender victory. Tellingly, Ginola, Asprilla and Beardsley, their three most imaginative players, remained on the bench. There were other signs, such as their policy of pulling everyone back for corners and Gillespie rarely crossing the halfway line.



Ferdinand: winning goal

Ravanelli appeared to equalise when he turned quickly in the area and shot past Hislop. Albert put up his arm in appeal and Steve Dunn, the referee, disallowed the effort. Now, everyone knows that defenders raise their arms as frequently as a schoolboy after too much lemonade, but it did appear as if Albert's head was clipped by Ravanelli.

Middlesbrough's ill fortune continued. Ravanelli chased through and Hislop stumbled before him, but the fall merely propelled the goalkeeper even more quickly to the ball. A strong header by Stamp hit Ravanelli's shoulder and fell gently into Hislop's arms. Pearson's powerful header hit the underside of the bar and bounced free. Finally, a delicate chip from Beck was scooped from the line by Peacock, and the ball once again fell into Hislop's reach.

"Some days they fly into the top corner of the net, on others they are straight at the 'keeper," Robson said. "If we keep playing like that, we are going to get the breaks. We never got one today. If we keep it up from now until May, we will win a lot more than we lose."

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, did not deny that luck had played its part. "We were fortunate to take three points," he said. On Ravanelli's disallowed goal, he was brilliantly evasive.

"The ref might have been right, he might have been wrong," he said.

The referee was, in fact, almost certainly wrong, but this is merely another injustice that Middlesbrough can mention when they make that desperate phone call.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-1-2): S. Hislop — N. Cox, G. Ferra, S. Vickers (sub N. Pearson, 77min), C. Fleming — C. Hippitt (sub C. Beardsley, 56), R. Martin, A. Moore (sub P. Stamp, 56) — J. Ravanelli — F. Ravanelli, M. Beck. NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2): S. Hislop — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert — K. Gillespie, R. Lee, W. Barton, L. Clark, R. Elliott — A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand. Referee: S. Dunn.

Graham ahead on points

Sunderland 0
Leeds United 1

BY DAVID MADDOCK

BY the finish it was a one-all draw. No, not the relatively dull FA Carling Premiership match between two sides with nothing more than survival in mind, but the eminently more interesting contest between George Graham, the Leeds United manager, and Anthony Yeobah, his malcontent forward.

The pair have indulged in an unseemly squabble in recent months. Yeobah — believes that he — a king among cabbages — should be playing, while Graham says that he has not been fit.

Halfway through the match Graham had taken a clear lead as Yeobah, patently lacking match sharpness, missed three presentable opportunities. "Yeobah could have had a hat-trick, but, as I have been

telling our fans all along, he's not been fully match-fit," Graham smiled indulgently afterwards. "I might just have to drop him again." A joke, apparently.

In the second half, though, Yeobah looked up from 35 yards out and sent a shot soaring over Lionel Perez, the bemused Sunderland goalkeeper, on to the top of the crossbar. One-one.

No other player in the Leeds squad is capable of such such mischief. There is a clear case to be argued that a half-fit Yeobah is far better than the fully-fit chickens that lost their heads in the club's two previous matches, against Portsmouth and Liverpool. Graham, though, will have him out in the end — that much is clear even now.

Graham knows what he is doing, even if it is not pretty. Leeds were appalling in their past two games, but here he reshuffled his dog-eared pack to play Sunderland off their

park and secure an important victory. Leeds will not go down and Graham will eventually find a forward of similar talent to Yeobah to excite the supporters and follow his orders.

It is Sunderland who must worry after failing to put any daylight between themselves and the relegation pack. Their supporters expressed their discontent after Lee Bowyer caught the defence waiting for an offside flag that never came in the 49th minute.

"The crowd pay their dough and so are entitled to their opinion," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said. "We weren't good enough, but we just have to work at it and see if we can survive."

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): P. Reid — G. Hall, R. O'Neil, A. McKelvie, M. Scott — D. Williams (sub M. Smith, 46min), P. Bowness, K. Ball, M. Gray (sub C. Russell, 51) — D. Kelly, J. Mann (sub A. Rias, 78). LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Morgan — G. Hall, R. Morrison, G. Kelly, N. Morgan (sub I. Harris, 29) — I. Rush, L. Richardson, L. Bowyer, L. Shearer — S. O'Shea, A. Yeobah (sub R. Wallace, 56). Referee: G. Post.

If Napoleon had better information, he might not have met his Waterloo. How goes the battle?



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PRIMARK

RUGBY UNION: SOUTH AFRICAN ENSURES SMOOTH PROGRESS TO SEMI-FINALS AS NEWCASTLE ARE LEFT BEHIND

Stransky takes the controls for Leicester

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Leicester..... 18

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ROB ANDREW is not accustomed to being outmanoeuvred on the Kingston Park pitch that he now calls home. Newcastle's polyglot team has lost only once anywhere this season in their restless search for promotion, but, in Joel Stransky on Saturday, Andrew more than met his match.

It took Stransky only a matter of days to translate himself from South Africa's Cape of Storms to the heart of England and now he fits Leicester like a hand in a comfortable glove. Three penalty goals in each half in a strong wind were only part of his contribution as Leicester strode into the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup for the sixth successive season.

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In such conditions, fluent rugby, of the kind that both clubs might have sought on a better day, was out of the question. Winning became a matter of control and, where Stransky had it, whether running, riding the tackle or crafting a kick into the corners, Andrew did not. The space to which Andrew has become accustomed in the Courage Clubs Championship second division was no longer there and so the packed house of 5,700 witnessed an uncharacteristic series of snatched kicks and dropped passes.

It was what Newcastle, for all their dozen internationals, had feared: first-division tempo allied to a lack of togetherness, compounded by injuries to which the most serious was to Graham Childs. Childs departed on a stretcher after a five-minute delay, fears that he had sustained a neck injury in a tackle on Will Greenwood allayed when it turned out to be heavy concussion that will create a natural void to be occupied by the club's latest

signing — at a price, it may be said, as overblown as the wind — Va'anga Tuigamala.

In the past 14 weeks Newcastle have had only three meaningful games and, though they flattered to deceive playing into the wind in the first quarter — mainly through Tony Underwood's aggressive running at his former colleagues — they were gradually ground down by the Leicester forwards in what was, intermittently, a mean-spirited game that brought yellow cards for Will Johnson and Richard Arnold.

Both were for late and unnecessary charges, and others might have qualified for the same warning. Frustration accounted for part of it, but there is a cynical streak to Newcastle that they must either erase or disguise if they are to avoid further adverse penalty counts such as the 18-9 tally that Ed Morrison awarded against them. Not that cynicism was to blame for the collapsed scrums in the second half, when the loss of Nick Poppell, the Ireland prop, took its toll.

He left shortly before the interval with a damaged hamstring that will probably keep him out of the international against Scotland on Saturday. Thereafter, Leicester were able to control the scrums, swinging either way to set up the younger Johnson for a series of powerful charges from No 8 that made one almost forget the absence of Dean Richards and Eric Miller.

Johnson, 22 and only half a stone lighter than his 18st and better-known brother, distinguished himself playing against Old Belvedere earlier this month (when Richards played lock) and Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, was delighted by his handling and tackling. "In the first half we didn't establish any control with the wind at all, we didn't kick well, but, in the second half, we were excellent in our control," Dwyer said.

"Week by week I continue to be surprised as how difficult it is to play in league, cup and Europe. It's a very high standard, tough games nine weeks out of ten, and it will be worse next season with teams such as Richmond and Newcastle



Lam, scorer of the game's only try, attempts to find a way through with Stransky, left, and Healey providing the cover for Leicester

in the first division. Look at the players who have come in." Players such as Pat Lam, making his home debut for Newcastle and scoring the game's only try with two minutes remaining, and Doddie Weir, whose powerful all-round display added to his credentials as a potential British Isles player.

Lam, the Western Samoa captain, is a player of genuine quality, hard but fair. Weir, the Scotland lock, added to his stature with a feisty lineout display.

Andrew, successful with only one of three kicks at goal, gave Newcastle the initial advantage, but Stransky waited three penalties down and across the wind for Leicester's 9-3 interval advantage. It

seemed nothing like enough after a half in which Newcastle had dominated the ball, and a penalty attempt from 43 metres into the goal by Stransky seemed the longest of shots by Leicester. That one missed, but the next, from only five metres less, did not and the Leicester forwards began to squeeze the life from their opponents.

Two more penalty goals from close range indicated how close Leicester came to crossing the Newcastle line, but Tim Stimpson showed his international qualities with an outstanding defensive display. Lam's try at the close was reward for a series of battering assaults on the Leicester line, but the verdict had long since gone Leicester's way.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tony Lam, Penalty goal; Andrew, Leicester: Penalty goal; Stransky (6).
NEWCASTLE: T. Stimpson; J. Bentley, A. Tait, G. Childs, T. Underwood, R. Andrew, G. Armstrong, N. Poppell, R. Neesham, G. Graham, P. Lam, G. Archer, G. Weir, R. Arnold, D. Ryan, G. Childs replaced by M. Taylor (11m). Poppell replaced by P. Vercos (58).
LEICESTER: J. Lam, S. Healey, C. Jones, W. Greenwood, C. Lloyd, J. Stransky, J. Healey, G. Richards, R. Carroll, D. Gardner, J. Weir, M. Johnson, M. Pook, N. Back, W. Johnson, R. Lloyd temporary replacement for Healey (20-28, 40-42).
Referee: E. Morrison (Bristol).

Gloucester thrive on basic instincts

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Gloucester..... 25

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IF THERE was hair to be torn from his bullet head, Richard Hill would have done so in tuffs. Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, was far from alone in being driven to distraction at College Grove on Saturday. Two penalty tries, one of them disputed, did not represent the free-flowing passage into the Pilkington Cup semi-finals that Hill had envisaged.

After eight knock-ons in the opening 20 minutes, Gloucester abandoned pretensions to 15-man rugby in favour of more traditional fare. Red meat replaced nouvelle cuisine and, in depriving Wakefield of all but four lineouts, their impressive forwards out-muscled their second division opponents with greater comfort than suggested by a four-point margin.

Whether Gloucester can reach their first final since 1990 will depend largely on a home draw. The cup run is a bonus. Survival in the first division is the overriding priority

and Hill is mindful of the need to improve. "The ball we are producing is far too slow," he said. "We wanted to play a fast game, but, every time we got it out, we got caught or split it. The forwards knew then they had to stick it up the jumper."

Against Greening's dynamism in the loose, the penetration of Glanville around the fringes and Gloucester's complete domination of the scrum, Wakefield had little chance.

There were no quibbles about the scrum collapse that led to the first penalty try, but Jim Kilfoyle, the Wakefield



Hill: improvement needed

coach, was angered by the second award, on the hour. It left Wakefield 14 points adrift after Maplett's fourth successful place kick.

"They went for the push and our loose-head prop held it comfortably," Kilfoyle said. "There was a small swivel and their No 1 took it down."

But for that decision, two excellent counter-attacking tries in the last eight minutes by Mike Jackson might have made a real difference. As it was, Gloucester's equilibrium was little disturbed as they erased the memory of an embarrassing cup defeat by Wakefield two years ago and took their place in the last four for a second successive year.

Although Jackson was responsible for all his side's points, the waywardness of his touch kicking and hesitancy at stand-off half gave away positions from which Gloucester scored their first and third tries. The latter was a piece of opportunism by Caskie, whose weighted kick bounced kindly for Peters, unmarked on the right wing.

After a solitary home win all season, it is little wonder that Wakefield are trying to leave College Grove. The club feels

that it can prosper jointly with Wakefield Trinity rugby league club, possibly at a new site close to the proposed new Yorkshire County Cricket Club ground, near Wakefield. Without a sugar daddy, however, it will require generous assistance from the National Lottery.

Promotion is unlikely this year, with the four wealthy second division clubs — Richmond, Bedford, Newcastle and Coventry — above them, but Kilfoyle, while disappointed about their elimination, was upbeat about Wakefield's future. "There are major developments that, with the quality of our playing staff, will catapult us into the top two next year," he said.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Tries: Jackson (2). Conversion: Jackson. Penalty goals: Jackson (2). Gloucester: Tries: Peters, two penalty tries. Conversion: Maplett (2). Penalty goals: Maplett (2). WAKEFIELD: P. Mackay, M. McCann, I. Wynn, P. Maynard, R. Thompson, M. Jackson, D. Scully, P. Lancaster, T. Garrett, R. Latham, P. Stewart, E. Croft, A. Bailey, P. Marley, D. Hendry, B. Bailey replaced by J. Caskie, M. Bennett, S. Shaw replaced by S. Shaw (14-40). Gloucester: C. Catling, M. Peters, D. Caskie, M. Roberts, M. Lloyd, M. Maplett, S. Bennett, A. Widdow, P. Greening, A. Dawson, P. Glanville, D. Sims, R. Fidler, N. Carter, S. Dawkins, Maplett replaced by M. Kilfoyle (22). Roberts replaced by S. Greening (34).
Referee: A. Spence (Bristol).

Sale dial M for mastery

Northampton..... 9
Sale..... 22

By JOHN HOPKINS

THE influence of the alpha bet in rugby continues to spread. At Leicester, it is the ABC club, the famous front row. Less well known, perhaps, are the Ms at Sale — Jim Mallinder, Simon Mannix, Dewi Morris and John Mitchell.

These four men exert the influence of eight. Their enormous contributions explain why Sale defeated Northampton so conclusively to reach the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup.

Northampton do not often lose at home, and lose without scoring a try even less often. In the car park, a Northampton supporter, who was close to tears, said: "I've been associated with rugby all my life and I have never seen a team who didn't want to play rugby."

Mallinder, the Sale captain and full back, is playing the best rugby of his life, invigorated by his inclusion in the initial party for the British Isles tour. Mannix and Mor-

ris represent a hugely experienced half-back partnership. Which of them talks more is a matter of opinion.

The greatest praise goes to Mitchell, from New Zealand, who is in his first season as coach. "He has been awesome," Mallinder said. "He had a difficult role, to take over from Paul Turner, but he has given us a harder physical and mental edge. He has brought the team together. He is a players' coach, a players' man."

Mitchell, a flanker, has brought some New Zealand realism to Sale's play. His watchwords include: "Retain the ball", "Be relentless" and "Make no mistakes" — advice backed by the forward drills and hard work for which the New Zealanders are famous. "We've hit a lot of bags, do a lot of scrumming," Mitchell said. "We work under pressure. If you don't work under pressure, you are not working."

Poorly marshalled by Paul Grayson, Northampton could not breach the Sale defence. Slowly the life was squeezed out of them. In the first half Sale had four scrums on the Northampton line, exerting

immense pressure. Something had to give and soon Morris dived over from in front of the lineout.

Near the end Sale attacked again and again down the narrow side, player after player taking the ball back there. Once again the pressure told and Dylan O'Grady, whom Mitchell believes should interest the Ireland selectors, plunged over for the second try.

"Mitch gives you self-belief," O'Grady said later, a trickle of blood from above his left eye running down his cheek. "He took me from being a blind-side and converted me to an open-side and taught me the increased fitness. He gives me videos to watch, talks all through a game. He is not one to slag you off. He does not shout and scream. He is straight to the point."

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goal; Grayson (2). Sale: Tries: Morris, O'Grady. Penalty goals: Mannix (4).
NORTHAMPTON: N. Smith, I. Hunter, G. Townsend, J. Bell, H. Thompson. P. Grayson, M. Dawson, M. Voller, A. Clarke, G. Welch, S. Tait, J. Chandler, M. Bayfield, J. Wright, T. Rodder.
SALE: J. Mitchell, D. Rees, J. Bennett, A. Healey, T. Gifford, S. Mannix, D. Morris, P. Winstanley, S. Bennett, A. Smith, J. Mitchell, J. Fowler, D. Baldwin, D. O'Grady, C. Vyssan.
Referee: S. Flacey (Yorkshire).

dead. Reaching the 22, he checked almost to a standstill looking for support but, rather than feed Sleightholme's inside run, he then set off again, comfortably rounding Maggs for a try in the left-hand corner. Maggs later proved that he is no slouch by catching Sleightholme as he was heading for the line after an interception had given him a decent head start.

Bath struggled up front and were fortunate that Bristol, fresh from a midweek win over Gloucester, seemed intent on giving the ball back every time that they won it. Bristol will kick themselves for not securing their first win over their nearest rivals since 1988, and so go some way towards securing their future in the first division. Alan Davies, their coach, was right when he said: "We lost the game. Bath didn't win it."

Bristol had their chances, but lacked the incisiveness to make them count. Numerous times they were camped on the Bath line, but only once could they penetrate a well-organised defence, when Short wriggled over just before the break to cancel out Redman's own close-range effort after 20 minutes.

Bristol led 13-5 at half-time, but were then undermined by their own generosity, some poor goal-kicking from Burke, who never came to terms with the strong wind, and, of course, one moment of magic from Guscott.

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Short. Conversion: Burke. Penalty goals: Burke (2). Bath: Tries: Redman, Guscott. Conversion: Callard. Penalty goals: Callard (2).
BRISTOL: P. Hale, P. Maggs, P. Wynn, M. Dennis, S. Stacey, P. Burke, R. Jones, D. Kilne, M. Rogers, K. Ruggan, M. Cooty, S. Shaw, C. Eagle, C. Short, S. Bell.
BATH: J. Callard, J. Sleightholme, P. O'Grady, J. Guscott, M. Penty, M. Call, C. Harrison, K. Yates, F. Mendez, J. Maltby, A. Robinson, M. Hogg, N. Redman, R. Webster, D. Lyle, Call replaced by R. Bullard (75m).
Referee: A. Rowden (Berkshire).

Wind of change blows Pontypridd's cup quest off course

Swansea..... 20
Pontypridd..... 19

By GERALD DAVIES

THE curious statistic that Pontypridd had not won in Swansea for 25 years was unearched this week. A quarter of a century is a long time to go without a victory. They came close to doing so on Saturday in a ruggedly competitive Swalec Cup match, but the weather and a rotten piece of luck conspired to deny them.

The strong wind blowing from the Mumbles end contrived, as ever, to

divide the match into two different kinds of halves, forcing the teams to alternately struggle to make any kind of headway, then attempt to control the gentler of kicks as they span away down a favourable gradient.

Pontypridd, the holders, played with the advantage in the first half. Their objective was clear: amass as many points as possible before the interval. After 14 minutes they were well on their way to reaching the kind of score that would test Swansea. With 13 points on the scoreboard, they were almost up with the clock and a handsome target was on the cards.

Swansea had begun well, playing a tight, controlled game with players not straying very far and keeping closely in touch with each other. Gradually, Pontypridd broke free of these shackles and Jenkins began exerting his influence. His neat kicking pinized back Swansea and his two penalty goals secured the early lead.

Then, changing direction deep in his own half, first going left but finding his way blocked, he went right and set Jason Lewis, the centre, free. Lewis moved onwards into the opposition half. When he was stopped and a metre formed, Eynon, the prop, stepped into

space. With some 30 metres to go, shoulders hunched, knees pumping, he cut an unlikely figure with a quick sprint. Someone would surely bring him down. No one did. Charging onwards, head held high like a proud shire horse, he reached the line.

With Jenkins converting, Pontypridd were well on their way to presenting Swansea with a tough task before their good fortune changed.

They mounted yet another promising attack, but Steele Lewis's pass failed to reach Morgan on the 22-metre line and Taylor intercepted to sprint some 70 metres to score.

With Thomas's conversion, the target was substantially reduced and hope faded. This was the telling moment that ultimately cost Pontypridd the game.

With Thomas kicking another penalty goal, Jenkins's two in response hardly seemed to matter. Within seven minutes of the second half Stuart Davies's try and Thomas's conversion and penalty goal gave Swansea the lead that they did not relinquish as a thrilling second half refused to yield any more points.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Stuart Davies, Taylor. Conversion: A. Thomas (2). Penalty goals: A. Thomas (2). Pontypridd: Try: Eynon. Conversion: Jenkins. Penalty goals: Jenkins (4).

SWANSEA: M. Budge, W. Lewis, M. Taylor, S. Gibbs, S. Jones, A. Thomas, A. Booth, I. Budge, G. Jenkins, C. Anthony, C. Charles, S. Moore, P. Arnold, D. Thomas, Stuart Davies.

PONTYPRIDD: K. Morgan, D. Marley, J. Lewis, S. Lewis, P. Ford, N. Jones, P. John, A. Metcalfe, M. Williams, G. Prosser, M. Rowley, M. Spiller, R. Lunn, R. Marley replaced by M. Lloyd (40).
Referee: G. Simmons (Telford Wales).

□ The Swalec Cup tie between Treorchy and Bridgend was postponed yesterday after Bridgend, whose team bus had slid off the road on the way to the match, deemed the waterlogged pitch unplayable. Nigel Whitehouse, the referee, thought play was possible, but could not, in the rules, deny Bridgend's request.

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Expanding indoor sport presents case for recognition at Olympic level

Tug-of-war exerts pulling power on dedicated athletes

After a day at the world indoor tug-of-war championships in Torbay, it was hard to disagree with Tug (yes, really) Lawson. "The popular concept of tug-of-war is of Michelin men tumbling out of a pub but, as you can see, they are athletes, all bone and sinew, fighting weight," Lawson, 47 years in the sport, said.

I saw Wendy Colclough's hands close-up and doubted whether the barefoot Zola Budd had ever abused her feet so. I listened to Leo Conway and wondered whether Steven Redgrave would last a week of his training. Both are representative of a sport gathering momentum, of growing numbers of dedicated participants. Colclough was a member of the England bronze medal-winning eight in the 480 kilogram category. Her hands were a mass of disfiguring callouses, no clue to her profession. She makes delicate lingerie and, before returning to work, will do a patch-up job with nail-clippers and files. "Normally, women file their nails, but we have to file our skin," Tracey Johnson, Colclough's sister and fellow puller, said.

Diane Richards is Colclough's other sister and all three compete, women in their late twenties and thirties, not unattractive (hands excepted), nor the type one associates with the shot putt circle, trained athletes. Johnson and Richards won medals in the 520 kilogram category.

To be ready for Torbay, Conway and others in the Ireland 600 kilogram team trained for five months, four nights a week, 7.30 to 11.00, and Sunday mornings.

Although the sport now has competitors from various walks of life, the Ireland team, a squad from Dundalk, is a throwback to the old days. The roots of tug-of-war are

David Powell meets competitors who claim that they are living like

Trappist monks in pursuit of success

in farming, and the Ireland eight are all farmers. Their training involves pulling barrels of cement over a derrick, eight men lifting 104 stone.

Ask Conway "why bother?", and he will show you his gold medal from Saturday. No team can win unless it is as close as dammit to weight, and Hugh, Leo's brother, the trainer, knows his pullers so well that, for a warm-up competition, when the 560 kilogram team weighed 1.5 kilos too heavy, he sent them out for an 11-minute run because he knew that was what was needed to make the weight. They came back and weighed exactly 560 kilograms.

"When we train for these championships, there is no drink," Leo Conway said. "We live like Trappist monks. Our team lives for tug-of-war. If you took tug-of-war out of my life and Hughie's, we would have nothing to talk about."

Tug-of-war was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920 and is lobbying to return. It argues its case on the grounds of it remaining truly amateur, its growth to 25 member federations of the Tug of War International Federation (TWIF), its clean record on drug testing, and good disciplinary record.

"We are one of the best disciplined sports in the world," Mike Parsons, the assistant secretary of the (England) Tug of War Association, said. "There is the utmost respect between puller and judge. I have been involved for 25 years and I am aware of only three cases where action had to be taken." Whereas

outdoor world championships have been held since 1975, the indoor equivalent was begun only in 1991, a reaction to demand. "Many competitors come from a farming background and are tied up with crops in summer, so the indoor sport was an attractive alternative," Cathal McKeever, a vice-president of TWIF, said.

"Now we have teachers, factory workers, office workers. The image is of people rolling up their sleeves and tucking their socks into their trousers, but that is anathema to people in the sport. The athletes here are as professional as people in any branch of sport as far as commitment, dedication and training is concerned."

Tug-of-war, strange but true, is a constituent part of the British Athletic Federation (BAF). "We are a field sport and the Americans call it track and field," McKeever said. "The fact that we have a commission within BAF is important to us because our image is enhanced by our association with BAF." Which is probably the kindest thing that anybody has said about the beleaguered BAF in a very long time.

Tug-of-war has disciples in Taiwan and their squad is coached by the Reverend Luke Tsai, a Presbyterian minister. The rope, according to the minister, symbolises happiness among mankind. "Let our love be round like the rope and our friendship last forever," he said in his team handbook. There is no mention what calloused hands may mean.



Holland, top, take on England in the 600 kilogram class at the world championships

Law breaking new ground on the water

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS LAW, the most experienced match-racer in Great Britain, has made a lot of mistakes in his life and he makes no effort to hide them. He comes across as aggressive, gritty and, at times, arrogant — all of which make him a formidable opponent on the water, but not the most immediately likeable of characters.

These days Law, whose career spans 25 years and includes involvement in three America's Cups, has the new-found zeal of a man who knows that he has given himself a last chance to add some lustre to his sailing career. At 44 the thirst for more success and further recognition is driving him on like a man possessed.

At the same time Law is doing his best to reposition himself to suit the new mood of a sport that is being taken over by younger, less complicated and more straightforwardly enthusiastic people, who tend to regard him and his ilk as embodying the attitudes of the older generation.

Law, who once emigrated to Australia and is resident in Bermuda for much of the time, talks of wanting to be at the heart of sailing in this country and trying to be part of that new era. As he points out, British sailing, at the top level, had a justifiable reputation for being "bitchy and back-biting". One wonders, though, how easy it will be for a man who thrived in those conditions to make the transition.

The key is the new America's Cup and Law's belief that, if the Royal Dorset Challenge should ever amount to anything, then he is "the right guy to skipper a boat". With that in mind, he is taking a leap to Auckland for a mini America's Cup regatta at the end of next month, though he admits his participation at this stage may have "no bearing on who might skipper a boat in 2000".

"I belong in England," he said. "No matter whether I live in Bermuda, the dream is to see a successful British America's Cup challenge. We, in the past, could be said to have squandered our opportunities in the America's Cup... we all feel that we need to not waste this one."

Law's claim to lead the campaign on the water is certainly a strong one. In match-racing, he is enjoying a new lease of life and is ranked seventh in the world, after winning the Australia Cup in Perth, the first event of the year. He has extensive big-boat experience and was an Admiral's Cup-winning helmsman in 1977.

There are doubts, however. Law has had more ups

and downs than most — at one point he gave up sailing altogether for four years — and he has found the pressure of winning in the clutch hard to take. Now he says he is mentally stronger and wiser. These must, though, be questions about his readiness to share the limelight with others.

He will find it difficult to fend off the claims of Lawrie Smith, who is distracted from match-racing by his Whitbread campaign, or Andy Beadsworth, who will be on board Law's boat in Auckland and who will provide the perfect opportunity for Law to demonstrate that he can work with individuals whom he views as potential rivals.

The choice of skipper for 2000 is academic without £15 million in place to make it possible, and there is no sign of the money yet. Law, meanwhile, is concentrating on match-racing in an effort to establish himself in the top three in the world.

This year he will sail in most of the grade one events



Law: stronger

with a team likely to include Andy Hemmings, Julian Saher, James Stagg and occasional appearances by Ben Ainslie. Britain's Olympic silver medal-winner, who was a "breeze-spouter" in Perth.

Among those standing in Law's path will again be the New Zealand "dream team" led by Russell Coutts, who beat him consistently last year, but Law feels that he is getting more focused and stronger all the time.

"We want to win four grand prix events this year," he said. "I've never felt that I've reached my potential — I want to get into that zone with the support of the team I've got around me."

Aussie clearly did not blot his copybook in Perth, and Law is happy to give him more opportunities. "He'll love to sail again," he said. "What I can do is give him a big boat experience without any pressure on him. I'm big enough and ugly enough and he can sit behind me and learn."

CYCLING

Injured Manning out of tour

PAUL MANNING, of Great Britain, was forced to pull out of the Tour of Langkawi, in Malaysia, after a heavy fall on the fourth stage, yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). Manning was unable to avoid four riders who crashed in front of him as they took a sharp right-hand bend on a descent.

Tony Barry, the Britain team manager, said: "Fortunately, Paul has broken no bones, but he lost a lot of skin from his back, arms and legs and finished the stage by ambulance." Manning, fourth in the opening time-trial stage on Wednesday, was expected to fly home today. Dave Rand,

Britain's road race champion, and Julian Winn were also in trouble, both suffering from severe stomach upsets.

The first important split on the 159-kilometre route around the environs of Kuala Lumpur came after 63 kilometres, when a group of five set off after Carlo Jazul, of the Philippines, three minutes ahead.

Jazul was finally overhauled and the quintet's advantage reached 12 minutes before the strong Italian Mapei squad responded, towing almost the entire field behind them. The fugitives were caught ten kilometres from the end. In a

mass sprint, the Italians proved a spent force and victory went to Andreas Walzer, of Germany, with the peloton all given the same time of 3hr 47min 55sec.

John Tanner, who finished with the main pack, remains Britain's best rider overall, 2min 17sec behind Frank McCormack, of the United States, the race leader.

The 71-kilometre stage today, from Bukit Kiara to Genting Highlands, is vital for Matthew Postle, who has a 12-point lead in the king of the mountains competition after winning two climbs on Saturday.

ICE HOCKEY

Violence brings early finish

A MASSIVE brawl between the players of Kingston Hawks and Telford Tigers caused the premier league match at Hull on Saturday to be abandoned.

The trouble started even before the game with players fighting during the warm-up. After just 24 seconds Norman Pinnington, of the Hawks, and Mark Pallister, of the Tigers, were thrown out for fighting by Dave Cloutman, the referee. A few seconds later Bobby McEwan, the assistant coach of the Hawks, was also given his marching orders.

Fearing crowd trouble, rink officials called Humber-side

police and the match was abandoned after 15 minutes with the scores level at 2-2. The Telford players were escorted to the team bus by police.

The trouble had apparently carried over from the match between the teams at Telford on Thursday, when Pallister, a cousin of the Manchester United and England footballer, was alleged to have made racist comments to Pinnington. Pallister has picked up an automatic one-match ban for fighting, while Pinnington has been suspended for two games after appearing to head-butt his rival.

The British Ice Hockey As-

sociation will review video footage of the incidents and premier league officials will discuss what action to take at their scheduled meeting on Thursday.

Newcastle Cobras did their best to spoil the celebrations at the Wales National Ice Rink, gaining a 4-3 victory in overtime on Saturday after Cardiff Devils had taken delivery of the Superleague trophy secured two days earlier.

Cardiff, never more than a goal down, forced overtime with a goal from Marty Kewchuk before Markku Takala settled the match by completing his hat-trick.

Dancing attendants with young at heart

By RUTH GUDHILL

ONE of the most promising youth partnerships on the British competitive ballroom dancing scene is that of Lee Portas and Joanne Spencer, both 17.

Portas and Spencer, the granddaughter of Peggy Spencer, the grande dame of British dancing, look likely to represent England in the world youth championships later this year.

However, as ballroom dancing moves closer to Olympic recognition, expected this September, what is significant about Portas and his rapid rise through the ranks is that he is one of a new generation of young British dancers that is starting to emerge from the state school system.

Portas now goes to the world's top coaches, including Robert Grover, the former world modern champion, and Carol MacRae, the former world Latin finalist.

However, he was first put on his feet by Jimmy Welch, of Welling, Kent, who is dedicating his professional career to helping children to learn to dance.

Welch, a former county over-35 champion, teaches weekly classes of children, from nursery age upwards, at the Hook Lane Primary School, in Welling, and at other schools in the area. If he spots exceptional talent, as in the case of Portas, he sends them to bigger stables in the hope that they might become champions.

As dance is part of the physical curriculum for all ages, increasing numbers of

children are learning the basics of dance and movement in PE lessons.

At Hook Lane, Welch's tuition is supplementary to the curriculum, but is strongly backed by Christine Richmond, the new headmistress.

The school takes sport seriously. Its football team is one of the best in the local league and a former Kent cricket coach visits regularly. The school will hope to take part in Top Sport, a new government initiative, in which children will be taught at an early age the basics of sports such as rugby and tennis.

The trick, though, in ballroom dancing, which has yet to achieve the television exposure of more traditional sports, is to spark children's



interest, Welch said. "We start by getting them hooked on Spice Girls. Then we put in a bit of cha-cha-cha to modern music." After that, they are given the rudiments of the waltz and the social fox-trot. By then, many want to know more.

Welch never mentions his own studio in the classes, because he believes that children should go only as far as they want, and must never be pushed into any competitive sport by ambitious coaches or parents, but, if any volunteer has a wish to go further, he will help them into classes. He will also introduce them to open competitions between his school and others in the area, competitions in which there is no dress code and so cost is kept low.

One couple, Natalie Denby and Russell Meachern, both 12, who started this way, are now hoping to make a mark nationally by taking part in events such as Philip Wylie's competition at Southall next month.

Even for those who do not proceed to competitive dancing, however, the benefits are incalculable. Apart from equipping them with confidence for the social dance floor, Welch said: "They learn co-ordination, which is the prime benefit. They learn balance, especially when we teach them to spin. Most people tend to dance from the knee when they start, but once they learn to use their legs and hips properly, it helps in other areas, such as in their posture."

The work that Welch and Delana Dunster, his colleague, who teaches the youngest children, are doing is invaluable. Dancers throughout Britain are pleading for greater investment in the junior and juvenile grades because, once dominant, British couples are now taking second place or lower at events such as the forthcoming Blackpool Junior dance festival, which begins on Easter Monday.

Most of the 200-plus couples there will be from abroad, and, although Britain can at present boast the top professional modern couple in Marcus and Karen Hilton, the irony is that, by the time the sport is on the Olympic agenda, talented juniors from countries such as Lithuania and Sweden will have reached adulthood. If present form is a guide, they could then be dominating the world rankings, depriving Great Britain of Olympic gold medals, a future that teachers aiming to build up ballroom dancing in schools are striving to avoid.



Claire Jevie, left, and Jessica Grahame, right, take to the floor at the school in Welling

Dein goes in search of the floating vote at Arsenal

TONIGHT, in a small community hall in the shadow of the North Bank at Highbury, a meeting will take place that could be the catalyst for one of the most exciting developments in football finance yet to take place — the flotation of Arsenal Football Club. If Arsenal do come to market, and it is far from certain that they will, it will be the biggest financial "yes, bigger" than Newcastle United, bigger than Aston Villa and, with an estimated capitalisation of more than £250 million, will create the second largest quoted club after Manchester United.

Arsenal have flirted with floating for the past couple of years. The club is still smarting from the debacle that surrounded the funding of the rebuilding of the North Bank, when the £22 million was raised through a highly unpopular bond scheme. Shortly afterwards David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, approached Merrill Lynch, Manchester United's stockbrokers, to see if they could float Arsenal. He was told that the City would not like the idea of providing money if Arsenal wanted to spend it only on players. The club had to have a project that needs the sort of cash that a float could provide.

Now it has come. Attempting to buy a ticket for games at Highbury this season has been a frustrating experience. Apart from a couple of cup games, the sold-out signs have



gone up many weeks in advance. Tickets for the match against Manchester United last Wednesday were snapped up within a couple of hours of going on sale in late December. Arsenal are desperate to increase the 33,000 capacity of Highbury and that is where the meeting tonight comes in.

Highbury is the ultimate inner-city ground. Located in the middle of an increasingly affluent residential part of north London, it has little room to expand. Its art deco East and West stands are listed by English Heritage as being of significant historic interest and the idea of filling in the corners is not favoured as it could ruin the Highbury pitch. Against this background, architects from the Lobb Partnership have been trying to find a way to put a quart into a pint pot.

After consulting with Islington council, a plan is being put before Highbury residents. This is believed to involve redeveloping first the East, then the West, and finally the South stands. The idea is that new cantilever goals could

increase the capacity and allow Arsenal to build new executive boxes, something that they failed to do when rebuilding the North Bank.

The issue of boxes may be why Arsenal are reluctant to develop the South Stand, or the Clock End as Arsenal traditionalists call it, where there are 50 executive boxes leased out on ten-year deals that mature at the end of the 1997-98 season. Arsenal could easily sell them on new ten-year leases, receiving £300,000 each. In this way, it could raise £25 million and ply for the majority of the redevelopment.

This pool of finance is at the heart of some of the arguments in the Arsenal boardroom. Dein favours a float, but the Carr family, which has two seats on the board and holds 28 per cent of the shares, is strongly opposed to going public. If the club can raise the money by other means — and the recent investment in Rangers by Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based billionaire, shows that there is money around without having a listing — then Arsenal may not float.

That would be a shame. Well supported and well branded clubs such as Arsenal and Liverpool are just the sort of clubs that serious investors would like to see on the market, never mind the likes of Charlton Athletic, Heart of Midlothian and West Bromwich Albion.

JASON NISSE

It takes peculiar stamina to get to the top in business — and to run a marathon. John Goodbody reports

Business secrets of staying the course

Two long-distance executives talk about what makes them run — and how their jobs prepare them for the rigours of marathon training

Self-discipline and planning are necessary in many areas of life. These skills can be equally applied to work, hobbies and family duties. Athletes who complete the Flora London Marathon are often also prominent in their jobs.

The requirements are similar: concentrated effort, leaving nothing to chance and careful preparation. If the maxim is true that you should give a busy man a job to do, so high-flying executives are often the best people to take on the task of finishing a marathon.

They may not be able to devote as many hours to training as some athletes can, but they know how to arrange their lives to compress the maximum amount of exercise into the shortest possible time. They anticipate problems, smile on adversity and are never deflected from their task. They fulfil their potential.

Two outstanding examples are Niall Fitzgerald, the chairman of Unilever plc, one of the world's largest consumer goods enterprises, and David Svendsen, the managing director of Microsoft, the leading software company. Here are two businessmen, both in highly competitive sectors, who know how to succeed.

The pair are curiously alike. Both are of tall and weigh 12's stone. Both have run one previous marathon and their best times are separated by only four minutes. They are only three years apart in age. They were both born abroad, and have lived extensively outside the United Kingdom, but are now based here. They are raising money for similar organisations: Fitzgerald for the Save the Children Fund and Svendsen for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Svendsen does not see the similar choice of charity as odd. "I believe it makes sense. We are both in businesses which are focused on the next generations."

Fitzgerald, 51, was born in Ireland and played a lot of rugby, football and cricket as a youngster but took up running only in the early 1980s when he was working for Unilever in South Africa.

"It was very popular there," he says. "The Comrades Marathon actually went past my front door." He began running up to five times a week. At the age of 36, he ran a marathon in 3 hours 31 minutes.

In March 1985, he returned to London to become group treasurer of Unilever but the pressures of work meant that he became a "weekend runner". Why did he start running more regularly? "Well, turning 50 had something to do with it. You have to prove yourself to do various things."

He accepts that he is "fairly pressurised" through his work and also

has to travel a great deal. "If you are not careful, you can get out of condition pretty quickly."

Often he now gets up at 6am to train and when he is abroad will always stay in hotels where there is a gym. He takes his running shoes wherever he goes and will often train on the streets. "It is a fun way to look round the cities."

The London Marathon has given him an extra incentive because since last year it has been sponsored by Flora, one of Unilever's brands. However, he is certainly not expecting to duplicate his previous marathon performance. "I would be happy to get round this time."

He goes through his work schedule weeks in advance to decide when he can get in his training sessions and, when he is in London, is often training four to five times a week. There will be a 40-55 minute run, followed by 25 minutes of strengthening work in a gymnasium. On other days, he will do shorter runs but, during the weekend, he will complete up to 12 miles. Before the marathon, he is planning to get in about 15 miles.

"You should not run unless you enjoy it, or at least convince yourself you are enjoying it. Certainly I like the whole process. I like the sense of freedom. It clears my mind. It helps me to find solutions to things at work, even if I have forgotten what those solutions are when I have finished."

"I saw the event on television last year. It is very emotional. There will be some nervousness about what happens on the day but I will finish, if I have to crawl in."

Svendsen, 48, has always used running as a "non-serious sporting pastime", initially during a rowing career in which he represented Queensland, in Australia, where he was born and raised.

He suffered from heart palpitations as an oarsman. "I used to stop breathing throughout a race. It was only when I took up distance running that I understood how to breathe properly. I have thought of taking up rowing again but I thought it would be a retrograde step."

It was when he was working in Australia in the 1980s that he got "seriously bitten by the running bug". He participated in the 14km Sydney to Bondi Beach race, in which up to 30,000 people take part, and this acted as an inspiration.

He came back to Britain in 1988 but had to concentrate on work at Microsoft. "It was a small, troubled business." However, he recently returned to serious running and recommends cross-training — practising different activities. "You can become very inflexible just running. But what is super-important for completing a marathon is the weekly long run. I am doing three hours on four successive



Niall Fitzgerald
"Turning 50, you have to prove things to yourself"



Niall Fitzgerald, the chairman of Unilever plc, goes through his work schedule weeks in advance to decide when he can get in his training sessions

Sundays from the middle of February. This will be his second marathon. His first was in Athens last autumn, the centenary of first modern Olympic Games. He did three hours 27 minutes. "We finished the race in the stadium that was used for the 1896 Games. It uplifted our spirits."

His spirits were so uplifted that, after the London Marathon, he has his eyes on Chicago in the autumn.

Care pays in the long run

The impact on the body of long-distance running should not be underestimated, Dr Dan Tunstall Pedoe, the medical director of the Flora London Marathon, says.

"The keynote is to be careful and sensible in both training and on the day of the race."

"At the moment there is a flu bug going round. If you catch the bug, a feverish cold or tummy problem, you should not run until you have fully recovered. People always believe they are as fit as they were before they became ill. They are not. So build up the mileage again gradually. Training too hard, too soon, may cause further damage or illness."

"Make certain you get enough days of rest and alternate hard days with gentle or non-active days. Do as much training as you can on soft surfaces, such as parkland or canal towpaths, rather than tarmac. If you have to do your long runs on roads, be careful that you vary on which side of the camber you run. Otherwise you will risk picking up an injury by putting a greater strain on one side of the body."

"Muscular aches and pains occur most frequently after a rise in mileage, so increase the training gradually. It is important to stretch your legs. However, you can do this after training rather than before. If you have plenty of time, then by all means stretch before your session, but if you have only 20 minutes for an outing, there is not much point in spending ten minutes warming up. Instead, start running slowly and gradually loosen yourself into the session."

"If you do get so badly injured that



Indoor training: it is important to build up your fitness

"During the race, take water regularly, even in the first half"

able to run 26 miles either in safety or with enjoyment. You should withdraw. Don't forget the organisers make a place automatically available for next year for those who pull out because they are either sick, lame or lazy."

"This has become a particular problem in recent years because so many of the entrants are raising money for a charity and don't want to lose face. I understand there is a moral dilemma here but runners should not risk their own health."

"During the race, take water regularly, even in the first half when you may not feel like it. Last year, it was unusually hot and the faster runners began pouring bottles of water over themselves. Please do not do this. By all means use your own allocation to drink but don't take extra containers just for the temporary relief of splashing it over yourself. Others behind you have a great need of the water for drinking."


"Do not drink alcohol on the night before long runs and particularly before the marathon itself. Alcohol is dehydrating. A pint of beer produces more than a pint of urine and you should start a long run well hydrated."

"Finally, if you have any serious medical condition, we are happy for you to take part, but only with your doctor's agreement. Please let me know the details and the treatment you are having. Send them to me, quoting your running number when you know it. Address the envelope to me, mark it confidential and send it to the Flora London Marathon office, PO Box 1234, London SE1 8RZ."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A 1NT opening defines the opener's hand to within a narrow range of strength and distribution. So after opening 1NT you should leave further action to your partner. Andrew Robson violated that sacred principle to great effect on this hand from the 1997 Macaulan International Pairs.

| Dealer South | | East-West game | IMPs |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | ♠A92 ♥K866 ♦863 ♣J106 |  | ♠KQ88 ♥32 ♦AJ1037 ♣72 |
| ♠J754 ♥J87 ♦Q86 ♣K53 | ♠105 ♥AQ104 ♦K2 ♣AQ854 | | |
| S | W | N | E |
| 1NT | Pass | Pass | 2D |
| 2H | Pass | Pass | 2S |
| 3C | Pass | Pass | All Pass |

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: four of spades

1NT showed 14-16 points. Robson couldn't open One Club as he would be in difficulties over a One Spade response — a rebid of 1NT would show only 11-13 points. East's Two Diamonds showed diamonds and a major, and now someone who held old-fashioned views about the duties of the No-trump opener would remain silent on the South hand. However, Robson decided to show his own major. West's double was to defend Two Hearts only if that were East's suit. Over East's Two Spades Robson showed the last feature of his hand.

When the hand appeared on VuGraph, and the principles of let us say, "Traditional" No-trump opening theory were discussed, David Burn explained Robson's hyper-modern treatment: "First you open 1NT to show your point count, then you bid your canapé suit, and finally you show your length."

Robson had given an accurate picture. Forrester (North) could tell that South must be 2-4-2-5, with strength concentrated in his long suits, so he judged well to jump to Four Hearts. That made easily. When I bid as Robson did, West sits over me with KJxxx in both my suits.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

- ORF
a. A female troll
b. A sheep disease
c. A goldfish
- RHAGES
a. Persian pots
b. Hydrophobia
c. Wide plains
- PIZE-BALL
a. A New York dumpling
b. An excuse-me dance
c. Manual rounders
- ORIHON
a. An Indian tribe
b. A syllabus
c. A harmonica book

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Cardiff masters
Three players made international master results at the Cardiff masters tournament, the first international master tournament ever held in South Wales. The players were James Cobb (who won the tournament with 6½ points out of nine), Daniel Gormally and Luke McShane. McShane, 15, needs just one more such result to be awarded the full master title.

Polgar's setback
Judit Polgar started off well in the Linares super-tournament and for the early part of the event she held the lead. Nevertheless, she met her nemesis in playing Black against Kasparov and never recovered from an inferior opening. After this game, Kasparov sped on to win the tournament. Polgar finished in a highly respectable fifth.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Judit Polgar
Linares, February 1997

| Sicilian Defence | |
|------------------|------|
| 1 e4 | c5 |
| 2 Nf3 | e6 |
| 3 d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Nc6 |
| 5 Nc3 | Qc7 |
| 6 Be2 | a6 |
| 7 0-0 | Nf6 |
| 8 Be3 | Bd4 |
| 9 Nxd4 | Bxc3 |
| 10 g3 | Be7 |
| 11 c4 | 0-0 |
| 12 B2 | Bd7 |
| 13 Re1 | 0-0 |
| 14 Nc5 | Bxc6 |
| 15 Nb6 | Rac8 |
| 16 b4 | Qb6 |
| 17 b5 | Be8 |
| 18 a4 | Nd7 |
| 19 Nd7 | Rcd7 |
| 20 Qd3 | Qc7 |
| 21 Rf1 | Rb6 |
| 22 Bb4 | Rab8 |

Diagram of final position



London v Beijing

From tomorrow until March, grandmasters Chris Ward, Neil McDonald and Keith Aspinall representing London, will take on a team of Chinese grandmasters from Beijing. Wang Zhiyi, Jiangchuan and Peng Xiaomin. The venue is the London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, Finchley, London, from 11am to 6pm. Spectators in this unusual event are welcome. For further details, contact the organisers on 0181-202 0082.

Raymond Keene writes in Sport Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hodgson — Sadler, Watson, Farley and Williams, London 1989. How did White force the capture of a pawn which soon led to a swift win?

Solution on page 46

Answers on page 46

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THE TIMES

Guscott's
touch of
true class
puts paid
to Bristol

boro

Marlboro

GRAND PRIX PREMIO

You?

BORD

DE ESPAÑA

GOODYEAR

It could be. If you want to run your own championship team and win £25,000 play Fantasy Formula 1. See the supplement for details. Cheers.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

مركز الامم

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

| SEC. 1 | SEC. 2 | SEC. 3 | SEC. 4 | SEC. 5 | SEC. 6 | SEC. 7 | SEC. 8 | SEC. 9 | SEC. 10 | SEC. 11 | SEC. 12 | SEC. 13 | SEC. 14 | SEC. 15 | SEC. 16 | SEC. 17 | SEC. 18 | SEC. 19 | SEC. 20 | SEC. 21 | SEC. 22 | SEC. 23 | SEC. 24 | SEC. 25 | SEC. 26 | SEC. 27 | SEC. 28 | SEC. 29 | SEC. 30 | SEC. 31 | SEC. 32 | SEC. 33 | SEC. 34 | SEC. 35 | SEC. 36 | SEC. 37 | SEC. 38 | SEC. 39 | SEC. 40 | SEC. 41 | SEC. 42 | SEC. 43 | SEC. 44 | SEC. 45 | SEC. 46 | SEC. 47 | SEC. 48 | SEC. 49 | SEC. 50 | SEC. 51 | SEC. 52 | SEC. 53 | SEC. 54 | SEC. 55 | SEC. 56 | SEC. 57 | SEC. 58 | SEC. 59 | SEC. 60 | SEC. 61 | SEC. 62 | SEC. 63 | SEC. 64 | SEC. 65 | SEC. 66 | SEC. 67 | SEC. 68 | SEC. 69 | SEC. 70 | SEC. 71 | SEC. 72 | SEC. 73 | SEC. 74 | SEC. 75 | SEC. 76 | SEC. 77 | SEC. 78 | SEC. 79 | SEC. 80 | SEC. 81 | SEC. 82 | SEC. 83 | SEC. 84 | SEC. 85 | SEC. 86 | SEC. 87 | SEC. 88 | SEC. 89 | SEC. 90 | SEC. 91 | SEC. 92 | SEC. 93 | SEC. 94 | SEC. 95 | SEC. 96 | SEC. 97 | SEC. 98 | SEC. 99 | SEC. 100 | SEC. 101 | SEC. 102 | SEC. 103 | SEC. 104 | SEC. 105 | SEC. 106 | SEC. 107 | SEC. 108 | SEC. 109 | SEC. 110 | SEC. 111 | SEC. 112 | SEC. 113 | SEC. 114 | SEC. 115 | SEC. 116 | SEC. 117 | SEC. 118 | SEC. 119 | SEC. 120 | SEC. 121 | SEC. 122 | SEC. 123 | SEC. 124 | SEC. 125 | SEC. 126 | SEC. 127 | SEC. 128 | SEC. 129 | SEC. 130 | SEC. 131 | SEC. 132 | SEC. 133 | SEC. 134 | SEC. 135 | SEC. 136 | SEC. 137 | SEC. 138 | SEC. 139 | SEC. 140 | SEC. 141 | SEC. 142 | SEC. 143 | SEC. 144 | SEC. 145 | SEC. 146 | SEC. 147 | SEC. 148 | SEC. 149 | SEC. 150 | SEC. 151 | SEC. 152 | SEC. 153 | SEC. 154 | SEC. 155 | SEC. 156 | SEC. 157 | SEC. 158 | SEC. 159 | SEC. 160 | SEC. 161 | SEC. 162 | SEC. 163 | SEC. 164 | SEC. 165 | SEC. 166 | SEC. 167 | SEC. 168 | SEC. 169 | SEC. 170 | SEC. 171 | SEC. 172 | SEC. 173 | SEC. 174 | SEC. 175 | SEC. 176 | SEC. 177 | SEC. 178 | SEC. 179 | SEC. 180 | SEC. 181 | SEC. 182 | SEC. 183 | SEC. 184 | SEC. 185 | SEC. 186 | SEC. 187 | SEC. 188 | SEC. 189 | SEC. 190 | SEC. 191 | SEC. 192 | SEC. 193 | SEC. 194 | SEC. 195 | SEC. 196 | SEC. 197 | SEC. 198 | SEC. 199 | SEC. 200 | SEC. 201 | SEC. 202 | SEC. 203 | SEC. 204 | SEC. 205 | SEC. 206 | SEC. 207 | SEC. 208 | SEC. 209 | SEC. 210 | SEC. 211 | SEC. 212 | SEC. 213 | SEC. 214 | SEC. 215 | SEC. 216 | SEC. 217 | SEC. 218 | SEC. 219 | SEC. 220 | SEC. 221 | SEC. 222 | SEC. 223 | SEC. 224 | SEC. 225 | SEC. 226 | SEC. 227 | SEC. 228 | SEC. 229 | SEC. 230 | SEC. 231 | SEC. 232 | SEC. 233 | SEC. 234 | SEC. 235 | SEC. 236 | SEC. 237 | SEC. 238 | SEC. 239 | SEC. 240 | SEC. 241 | SEC. 242 | SEC. 243 | SEC. 244 | SEC. 245 | SEC. 246 | SEC. 247 | SEC. 248 | SEC. 249 | SEC. 250 | SEC. 251 | SEC. 252 | SEC. 253 | SEC. 254 | SEC. 255 | SEC. 256 | SEC. 257 | SEC. 258 | SEC. 259 | SEC. 260 | SEC. 261 | SEC. 262 | SEC. 263 | SEC. 264 | SEC. 265 | SEC. 266 | SEC. 267 | SEC. 268 | SEC. 269 | SEC. 270 | SEC. 271 | SEC. 272 | SEC. 273 | SEC. 274 | SEC. 275 | SEC. 276 | SEC. 277 | SEC. 278 | SEC. 279 | SEC. 280 | SEC. 281 | SEC. 282 | SEC. 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374 | SEC. 375 | SEC. 376 | SEC. 377 | SEC. 378 | SEC. 379 | SEC. 380 | SEC. 381 | SEC. 382 | SEC. 383 | SEC. 384 | SEC. 385 | SEC. 386 | SEC. 387 | SEC. 388 | SEC. 389 | SEC. 390 | SEC. 391 | SEC. 392 | SEC. 393 | SEC. 394 | SEC. 395 | SEC. 396 | SEC. 397 | SEC. 398 | SEC. 399 | SEC. 400 | SEC. 401 | SEC. 402 | SEC. 403 | SEC. 404 | SEC. 405 | SEC. 406 | SEC. 407 | SEC. 408 | SEC. 409 | SEC. 410 | SEC. 411 | SEC. 412 | SEC. 413 | SEC. 414 | SEC. 415 | SEC. 416 | SEC. 417 | SEC. 418 | SEC. 419 | SEC. 420 | SEC. 421 | SEC. 422 | SEC. 423 | SEC. 424 | SEC. 425 | SEC. 426 | SEC. 427 | SEC. 428 | SEC. 429 | SEC. 430 | SEC. 431 | SEC. 432 | SEC. 433 | SEC. 434 | SEC. 435 | SEC. 436 | SEC. 437 | SEC. 438 | SEC. 439 | SEC. 440 | SEC. 441 | SEC. 442 | SEC. 443 | SEC. 444 | SEC. 445 | SEC. 446 | SEC. 447 | SEC. 448 | SEC. 449 | SEC. 450 | SEC. 451 | SEC. 452 | SEC. 453 | SEC. 454 | SEC. 455 | SEC. 456 | SEC. 457 | SEC. 458 | SEC. 459 | SEC. 460 | SEC. 461 | SEC. 462 | SEC. 463 | SEC. 464 | SEC. 465 | SEC. 466 | SEC. 467 | SEC. 468 | SEC. 469 | SEC. 470 | SEC. 471 | SEC. 472 | SEC. 473 | SEC. 474 | SEC. 475 | SEC. 476 | SEC. 477 | SEC. 478 | SEC. 479 | SEC. 480 | SEC. 481 | SEC. 482 | SEC. 483 | SEC. 484 | SEC. 485 | SEC. 486 | SEC. 487 | SEC. 488 | SEC. 489 | SEC. 490 | SEC. 491 | SEC. 492 | SEC. 493 | SEC. 494 | SEC. 495 | SEC. 496 | SEC. 497 | SEC. 498 | SEC. 499 | SEC. 500 | SEC. 501 | SEC. 502 | SEC. 503 | SEC. 504 | SEC. 505 | SEC. 506 | SEC. 507 | SEC. 508 | SEC. 509 | SEC. 510 | SEC. 511 | SEC. 512 | SEC. 513 | SEC. 514 | SEC. 515 | SEC. 516 | SEC. 517 | SEC. 518 | SEC. 519 | SEC. 520 | SEC. 521 | SEC. 522 | SEC. 523 | SEC. 524 | SEC. 525 | SEC. 526 | SEC. 527 | SEC. 528 | SEC. 529 | SEC. 530 | SEC. 531 | SEC. 532 | SEC. 533 | SEC. 534 | SEC. 535 | SEC. 536 | SEC. 537 | SEC. 538 | SEC. 539 | SEC. 540 | SEC. 541 | SEC. 542 | SEC. 543 | SEC. 544 | SEC. 545 | SEC. 546 | SEC. 547 | SEC. 548 | SEC. 549 | SEC. 550 | SEC. 551 | SEC. 552 | SEC. 553 | SEC. 554 | SEC. 555 | SEC. 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738 | SEC. 739 | SEC. 740 | SEC. 741 | SEC. 742 | SEC. 743 | SEC. 744 | SEC. 745 | SEC. 746 | SEC. 747 | SEC. 748 | SEC. 749 | SEC. 750 | SEC. 751 | SEC. 752 | SEC. 753 | SEC. 754 | SEC. 755 | SEC. 756 | SEC. 757 | SEC. 758 | SEC. 759 | SEC. 760 | SEC. 761 | SEC. 762 | SEC. 763 | SEC. 764 | SEC. 765 | SEC. 766 | SEC. 767 | SEC. 768 | SEC. 769 | SEC. 770 | SEC. 771 | SEC. 772 | SEC. 773 | SEC. 774 | SEC. 775 | SEC. 776 | SEC. 777 | SEC. 778 | SEC. 779 | SEC. 780 | SEC. 781 | SEC. 782 | SEC. 783 | SEC. 784 | SEC. 785 | SEC. 786 | SEC. 787 | SEC. 788 | SEC. 789 | SEC. 790 | SEC. 791 | SEC. 792 | SEC. 793 | SEC. 794 | SEC. 795 | SEC. 796 | SEC. 797 | SEC. 798 | SEC. 799 | SEC. 800 | SEC. 801 | SEC. 802 | SEC. 803 | SEC. 804 | SEC. 805 | SEC. 806 | SEC. 807 | SEC. 808 | SEC. 809 | SEC. 810 | SEC. 811 | SEC. 812 | SEC. 813 | SEC. 814 | SEC. 815 | SEC. 816 | SEC. 817 | SEC. 818 | SEC. 819 | SEC. 820 | SEC. 821 | SEC. 822 | SEC. 823 | SEC. 824 | SEC. 825 | SEC. 826 | SEC. 827 | SEC. 828 | SEC. 829 | SEC. 830 | SEC. 831 | SEC. 832 | SEC. 833 | SEC. 834 | SEC. 835 | SEC. 836 | SEC. 837 | SEC. 838 | SEC. 839 | SEC. 840 | SEC. 841 | SEC. 842 | SEC. 843 | SEC. 844 | SEC. 845 | SEC. 846 | SEC. 847 | SEC. 848 | SEC. 849 | SEC. 850 | SEC. 851 | SEC. 852 | SEC. 853 | SEC. 854 | SEC. 855 | SEC. 856 | SEC. 857 | SEC. 858 | SEC. 859 | SEC. 860 | SEC. 861 | SEC. 862 | SEC. 863 | SEC. 864 | SEC. 865 | SEC. 866 | SEC. 867 | SEC. 868 | SEC. 869 | SEC. 870 | SEC. 871 | SEC. 872 | SEC. 873 | SEC. 874 | SEC. 875 | SEC. 876 | SEC. 877 | SEC. 878 | SEC. 879 | SEC. 880 | SEC. 881 | SEC. 882 | SEC. 883 | SEC. 884 | SEC. 885 | SEC. 886 | SEC. 887 | SEC. 888 | SEC. 889 | SEC. 890 | SEC. 891 | SEC. 892 | SEC. 893 | SEC. 894 | SEC. 895 | SEC. 896 | SEC. 897 | SEC. 898 | SEC. 899 | SEC. 900 | SEC. 901 | SEC. 902 | SEC. 903 | SEC. 904 | SEC. 905 | SEC. 906 | SEC. 907 | SEC. 908 | SEC. 909 | SEC. 910 | SEC. 911 | SEC. 912 | SEC. 913 | SEC. 914 | SEC. 915 | SEC. 916 | SEC. 917 | SEC. 918 | SEC. 919 | SEC. 920 | SEC. 921 | SEC. 922 | SEC. 923 | SEC. 924 | SEC. 925 | SEC. 926 | SEC. 927 | SEC. 928 | SEC. 929 | SEC. 930 | SEC. 931 | SEC. 932 | SEC. 933 | SEC. 934 | SEC. 935 | SEC. 936 | SEC. 937 | SEC. 938 | SEC. 939 | SEC. 940 | SEC. 941 | SEC. 942 | SEC. 943 | SEC. 944 | SEC. 945 | SEC. 946 | SEC. 947 | SEC. 948 | SEC. 949 | SEC. 950 | SEC. 951 | SEC. 952 | SEC. 953 | SEC. 954 | SEC. 955 | SEC. 956 | SEC. 957 | SEC. 958 | SEC. 959 | SEC. 960 | SEC. 961 | SEC. 962 | SEC. 963 | SEC. 964 | SEC. 965 | SEC. 966 | SEC. 967 | SEC. 968 | SEC. 969 | SEC. 970 | SEC. 971 | SEC. 972 | SEC. 973 | SEC. 974 | SEC. 975 | SEC. 976 | SEC. 977 | SEC. 978 | SEC. 979 | SEC. 980 | SEC. 981 | SEC. 982 | SEC. 983 | SEC. 984 | SEC. 985 | SEC. 986 | SEC. 987 | SEC. 988 | SEC. 989 | SEC. 990 | SEC. 991 | SEC. 992 | SEC. 993 | SEC. 994 | SEC. 995 | SEC. 996 | SEC. 997 | SEC. 998 | SEC. 999 | SEC. 1000 |
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ENGINEERING VEHICLES

| SEC. 1 | SEC. 2 | SEC. 3 | SEC. 4 | SEC. 5 | SEC. 6 | SEC. 7 | SEC. 8 | SEC. 9 | SEC. 10 | SEC. 11 | SEC. 12 | SEC. 13 | SEC. 14 | SEC. 15 | SEC. 16 | SEC. 17 | SEC. 18 | SEC. 19 | SEC. 20 | SEC. 21 | SEC. 22 | SEC. 23 | SEC. 24 | SEC. 25 | SEC. 26 | SEC. 27 | SEC. 28 | SEC. 29 | SEC. 30 | SEC. 31 | SEC. 32 | SEC. 33 | SEC. 34 | SEC. 35 | SEC. 36 | SEC. 37 | SEC. 38 | SEC. 39 | SEC. 40 | SEC. 41 | SEC. 42 | SEC. 43 | SEC. 44 | SEC. 45 | SEC. 46 | SEC. 47 | SEC. 48 | SEC. 49 | SEC. 50 | SEC. 51 | SEC. 52 | SEC. 53 | SEC. 54 | SEC. 55 | SEC. 56 | SEC. 57 | SEC. 58 | SEC. 59 | SEC. 60 | SEC. 61 | SEC. 62 | SEC. 63 | SEC. 64 | SEC. 65 | SEC. 66 | SEC. 67 | SEC. 68 | SEC. 69 | SEC. 70 | SEC. 71 | SEC. 72 | SEC. 73 | SEC. 74 | SEC. 75 | SEC. 76 | SEC. 77 | SEC. 78 | SEC. 79 | SEC. 80 | SEC. 81 | SEC. 82 | SEC. 83 | SEC. 84 | SEC. 85 | SEC. 86 | SEC. 87 | SEC. 88 | SEC. 89 | SEC. 90 | SEC. 91 | SEC. 92 | SEC. 93 | SEC. 94 | SEC. 95 | SEC. 96 | SEC. 97 | SEC. 98 | SEC. 99 | SEC. 100 | SEC. 101 | SEC. 102 | SEC. 103 | SEC. 104 | SEC. 105 | SEC. 106 | SEC. 107 | SEC. 108 | SEC. 109 | SEC. 110 | SEC. 111 | SEC. 112 | SEC. 113 | SEC. 114 | SEC. 115 | SEC. 116 | SEC. 117 | SEC. 118 | SEC. 119 | SEC. 120 | SEC. 121 | SEC. 122 | SEC. 123 | SEC. 124 | SEC. 125 | SEC. 126 | SEC. 127 | SEC. 128 | SEC. 129 | SEC. 130 | SEC. 131 | SEC. 132 | SEC. 133 | SEC. 134 | SEC. 135 | SEC. 136 |
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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Bae profits will reach for the sky

BRITISH AEROSPACE: The City expects another impressive performance from Bae, where Sir Richard Evans is chief executive, when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Recent progress has been reflected in the shares, which in the past year have taken off from 788p to touch a peak of almost £13.

A 26 per cent increase in operating profits during the first six months will have been exceeded in the second half. At the pre-tax level, NatWest Securities is forecasting a rise of 33 per cent from £330 million to £440 million, while rival UBS predicts a 38 per cent climb to £435 million.

A growing defence orderbook will provide the main thrust to increased profitability, with cash revenues benefiting from the start of deliveries of Tornados to Saudi Arabia. Future profits growth will be underpinned by the development of the Eurofighter. On the civil aircraft side, losses are expected to be reduced. NatWest is looking for a 25 per cent increase in the net dividend to 25 pence.

NATWEST BANK: All eyes will be on the performance of NatWest Markets when the parent bank reports on Tuesday. After the sharp fall in profits reported by BZW, the global investment banking arm of fellow clearing bank Barclays, analysts will be looking to see how the two compare.

SBC Warburg has pencilled in a pre-tax profit for the full year of £1.25 billion for NatWest, compared with £1.75 billion in 1995. Costs will include NatWest's branch closing programme, unveiled at the half-year, which will reduce the workforce by 10,000 over four years and which at the interim stage contributed towards the drop in group profits. The full-year figures will also include the £600 million loss on the disposal of Bancorp, its US retail and commercial banking operation, which the group sold last May.

ABBAY NATIONAL: The acquisitive instincts of Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, which is expected to report annual pre-tax profits of around £1.2 billion, will be to the fore on Thursday. The bank's £1.4 billion bid for Scottish

Amicable will be tabled the following day and stacked up against those of the Prudential and possibly AMP, the Australian insurer. The deciding factor in the ScotAm bid could be the Scottish card so cannily played by the Abbey which already owns Scottish Mutual. The two headquarters are geographically close and the promise on job security, including those of the ScotAm directors, could win the day. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is taking a keen personal interest in the outcome.

PRUDENTIAL: Another Scottish Amicable suitor presents its full-year figures on Wednesday, which will include a final contribution from M&G, the reinsurer, sold in December. Estimates of operating pre-tax profits are £870-£880 million compared with £804 million.

Life profits are expected to be 16 per cent up on the previous year with much of the impetus coming from Jackson National, which should be sharply higher because of the recovery in new business and its increasing maturity. A 10 per cent increase in the payout to 17.2p is also on the cards.

STANDARD CHARTERED: No bank will follow developments in China after the death of Deng Xiaoping more closely than Standard Chartered, which reports on Wednesday. Last month Standard, expected to unveil annual pre-tax profits of between £855 million and £870 million, was one of only eight foreign banks, together with HSBC, to be granted a licence to trade in the Renminbi currency.

The half-time profits of £448 million were flattered by the proceeds from the sale of the group's private banking arm. Provided the other countries in Standard's portfolio, such as India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and certain African regions, produce no upsets, shareholders can expect a "solid" rise on last year's second-half dividend of 7.75p and a full-year payout of 11p.

BRITISH GAS: Thursday's full-year figures will be the last after the recent demerger of the business into two separate companies, BG Group and Centrica. To a large extent they are irrelevant although



Sir Richard Evans expects BAE's profits to be underpinned by the Eurofighter, despite US competition

the group may take the opportunity to wipe the slate clean. Net income is expected to be virtually stagnant at around £907 million. But the group will tumble into the red after write-offs which some brokers estimate could be as much as £1.3 billion. The underlying performance is likely to be flat, although TransCo will have benefited from reduced costs. The company has already forecast a final dividend of 8.1p, making an unchanged 14.5p for the year.

THORN: After last month's profits warning, there are unlikely to be many surprises when third-quarter figures are revealed this morning. Pre-tax profits will have grown 8 per cent from £113.5 million to £123 million, with brokers having pencilled in £170 million for the year. A first time dividend of 13p is expected for the full year.

EMI: A disappointing performance is expected from the other half of the Thorn EMI demerger.

Poor trading conditions in the music division will leave operating profits around £3 million lower at £213 million. Brokers say trading has been hit by currency factors, the depressed US retail market and a dull release schedule. A full-year £400 million has been pencilled in.

COMMERCIAL UNION: Currency fluctuations and bad weather are likely to have made a sharp dent in final-quarter profits and will have depressed the overall

results. Wednesday's full-year figures should show operating profits overall down from £509 million to £491 million. This will also affect the net asset value, which will have dropped from 582p a share to 572p-578p. A rising tax charge will see earnings fall, but the City is looking for the payout to be increased by 7 per cent to 30.25p.

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE: Full-year figures tomorrow are likely to see a sharper fall than CU. Operating profits should have declined by around 27 per cent to £253 million. The market range is £240-£270 million, with restructuring costs taking their toll. US results will have been hit by poor weather, while Europe will have seen a further decline in underwriting profits.

GEORGE WIMPEY: Further evidence of a housing pick-up should be reflected in full-year figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are likely to have almost doubled to £30 million, with earnings growing from 1.6p to 5.3p. Brokers will want to know how Wimpey intends to increase land bank and if a buyer has been found for its Morrison Homes business in the US.

LASMO: A stronger oil price should provide the basis for a sharp recovery in profitability when full-year figures are published on Thursday. UBS is forecasting a leap of 585 per cent in net income to £103 million. Brokers will be anxious to discover what new projects are planned. An increase of 20 per cent in the payout to 1.2p is expected.

RTZ: The drop in copper and aluminium prices will make a sizeable dent in profitability when the group reports full-year figures on Thursday. During 1996 the copper price fell 22 per cent to 104 cents, while aluminium was 16 per cent down to 70 cents. Earnings are expected to be down around 15 per cent to £671 million, although there may be a token increase in the payout to 27.2p. The continuing delay in start-up of the new Kennecott smelter will provide a further drag on profits in the current year.

TODAY
Interim: Canadian Overseas Packaging, Community Hospitals, Pizza House Group, Hanson (Q1), Express, Thom (Q3), Finis, Dizon Motors, Eubank & General, Fitch, Hibernian Group, Regal Hotel Group, Skipton Building Society, Economic statistics: US Treasury January budget statement, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW
Interim: Alumasc, EMI (nine months), Primadon, Gairforth High Income, Sema Group, William Shire Group, Coventry Building Society, Guardian Royal Exchange, Jernyn Investment Property, NatWest Building Society, Newcastle Building Society, Scottish Television, Shires, Smaller Companies, Trocadero, George Wimpey, Economic statistics: none.

WEDNESDAY
Interim: Bellwin, Logica, Plico Holdings, Quayle, Muro, Renishaw, Plesco, Access Plus, Brewin Dolphin Holdings, British Aerospace, Capital Shopping Centres, Commercial Union, Crestar, Delphi Group, Fairway Group, Invesco, ISA International, Mayflower Corporation, Standard Chartered, Verdon, Zoltan, Economic statistics: UK December global trade balance, UK January non-EU trade balance, Bank of England announces result of gilt auction, Bundesbank awards report.

THURSDAY
Interim: none, Fife: Abbey National, Baa Global Emerging Markets, British Gas, Burford Holdings, Green Property Company, Lasso, Lex Service, Liberty International Holdings, North, Quanta Group, RTZ Corporation, Standard Bank Holdings. Economic statistics: World South by-election, Hans Tismeyer, President of the Bundesbank, to speak at financial markets conference, Bank of France monetary policy council meeting, US weekly jobless claims report, US January durable goods, US January existing home sales.

FRIDAY
Interim: Eldon, Fife: Harsco Group, Woodward Industries, United Industries, Economic statistics: UK British Bankers Association January mortgage lending.

The Mail on Sunday: Bay Today, Epicore Networks, Hold Marm & Overseas, The Sunday Telegraph: Hold Shield, Diagnostics, Stanford Rook, Bay Merchant Retail, London & Edinburgh Publishing, Cavendish, Allen, Golden Rose Communications, Zeneca. The Sunday Times: Bay British Telecom, Wimpey, Mayflower, LucasVarley, Community Hospitals, SEC, Hold Wembley, RTZ-CRA.

Crédit Lyonnais to get more aid

FROM LEVIA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

JEAN ARTHUIS, the French Finance Minister, is set to announce this week up to Fr 30 billion of new state aid to Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank that has only recently returned to a small profit after several years of disastrous losses. The French Government is expected to approach the European Commission for approval of the restructuring aid.

However, Karel Van Miert, EU Commissioner for Competition, has yet to receive a communication from the French, according to his spokesman.

The Department of Trade and Industry is understood to have written to Mr Van Miert last month, supporting the Commission in its stance in questioning the need for state aid for Crédit Lyonnais, although a spokeswoman for the DTI refused to comment.

The new aid would come on top of an earlier package of state aid worth Fr45 billion, a sum which the Commission describes as "enormous" and only reluctantly approved in



Van Miert letter from DTI

1995 on condition the bank sell 35 per cent of its foreign banking network by the end of next year. In September last year the Commission approved a further Fr3.9 billion of emergency state aid. The Commission says state aid for restructuring should only need to be granted once. It should be strictly necessary and competitors should be compensated for the adverse effects of the aid. Tough conditions would be imposed if it approves any future restructuring aid.

Take the rollercoaster ride

Will the gilt market peak on election night? There are good reasons to believe that it might. This contrasts with the growing market optimism that gilts will rally in the second half of 1997, once the election is over and the impact of sterling's strength on the economy becomes apparent.

There is an election night effect. The past two elections have had a significant influence on gilt-market performance. In 1992 gilts sold off sharply in the month before the election, but reversed their losses in the immediate run-up to election day, in anticipation of the Conservatives' remarkable recovery.

The 1987 election also proved to be an important watershed and there are some especially interesting parallels with today. In 1987 economic growth was above trend, sterling was in one of its few strengthening phases and the election outcome looked fairly certain. Today growth is slower than ten years ago, sterling's progress is more pronounced and the election unlikely to result in any adverse policy changes.

In the six months before the 1987 election gilts rallied sharply, with yields falling 140 basis

points. Although gilts will not match their 1987 performance, they are expected to do well in the coming weeks. After the election, a sharp sell-off as in 1987 is unlikely, but gilt yields are expected to drift higher. Turning to the fundamentals, there are four main reasons for near-term optimism. First, UK underlying inflation, despite disappointing January figures, is likely to fall. Assuming a May 1 election, the two monthly retail price releases before then should see the annual underlying rate moving

below 3 per cent and heading for 2½ per cent. Some of the reasons are well-rehearsed — sterling's 15 per cent rise over the past six months, core producer output price inflation of just 0.7 per cent, wage settlements of only 3 per cent and so on.

But a new factor is the 14 per cent decline in the oil price over the past three weeks. The increase in the oil price last year has added between ½ per cent and 1½ per cent to underlying inflation in recent months. The oil price fall is unlikely to feed through in time for the

Government to achieve its target of underlying inflation of below 2½ per cent by the end of this Parliament but, even so, it will help gilt market sentiment in the near term.

Secondly, fears of an early increase in base rates have eased, partly because of sterling's strength and the improved inflation outlook, but also because of mixed growth numbers. An additional and growing element behind the downward shift in interest rate expectations is the prospect of fiscal tightening from an in-

coming Labour government, which would lessen the urgency for any post-election base-rate rise.

Thirdly, the markets view a Labour victory positively, a remarkable achievement by the party's leaders. Policies such as a more positive attitude towards the single European currency, greater Bank of England independence and tight public spending targets are all gilt-friendly.

Fourthly, global bond yields have fallen this year — by 10 basis points in the US and by 28 basis points in Germany on

ten-year bonds — and look set to remain low for now.

There are longer-term negatives. By election night or thereafter, all the buyers will have bought and investors may reconsider their rosy post-election investment strategies.

All four points above could turn sour in the second half of 1997. Underlying inflation may reach 2½ per cent, but will then move sideways or begin to edge higher. Fears of base-rate rises will re-emerge as growth proves firmer than expected, because of strong labour and housing markets and renewed growth in Europe. Labour's frailties may begin to appear once in office of the Shadow Cabinet, only a handful have previous ministerial experience and none have held senior office. And finally, global bond yields, which account for half of all movements in gilt yields, will be rising by May 1 or certainly near their lows.

In conclusion, gilt investors should ride the rollercoaster for now, but prepare to exit before Labour's May Day celebrations.

DICK HOWARD AND ADRIAN OWENS
Julius Baer Investments Limited

Markets focus on Wirral South result

There are very few statistical releases in Britain this week and most of the market's attention is likely to fall on Thursday's by-election in Wirral South. Labour is expected to win and so consolidate its position as clear favourite to win the forthcoming election. It is, however, hard to see what impact this will have on markets, which are already well used to the idea of a Labour victory.

Another focus of interest could be tomorrow's speech by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to an international bond conference in London. Otherwise, the markets will be looking at Wednesday's trade figures. December's global visible trade is expected to show a deficit of £1.1 billion compared with a shortfall of £959 million in November. Meanwhile, January figures for non-European Union trade are expected, according to the market consensus compiled by MMS International, to show a deficit of £700 million

compared with December's trade gap of £844 million.

Otherwise, the main focus of the markets this week will be the two days of Humphrey-Hawkins testimony by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve. He testifies before the Senate Banking Committee on Wednesday and the House Banking subcommittee on Thursday. Mr Greenspan's remarks will be scrutinised closely for any hint of his leanings on US interest rate policy. Adam Chester, international bond strategist at Yamaichi International Europe, said: "The benign nature of the recent inflation data has taken some of the heat out of the US policy debate, although the markets will be looking to Mr Greenspan for implicit confirmation that a rate rise in March (and May) is off the cards." He believes that Friday's second estimate of fourth-quarter US GDP should support the argument for unchanged rates.

JANET BUSH

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THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 1997

UK urged to use euro alongside the pound

By MARTIN WALLER

AN INNOVATORY plan from the Adam Smith Institute, suggests Britain should adopt a two-stage approach to economic monetary union by making the euro, the EU's planned super-currency, legal tender alongside the pound.

Madsen Pirie, president of the institute, in a paper published today, argues that if Britain is not, as widely expected, in the first wave of countries joining a single currency, it could still see the benefit by adopting the euro as legal tender for all but the smallest transactions.

This would allow the euro to circulate freely through Britain and give business and citizens access to it. British firms would be able to trade in the currency, for example making and receiving payments through euro bank accounts, rather than being subject to the whims of the currency markets.

Dr Pirie concedes that his idea is similar to the "hard ecu" proposed by Britain that was to have circulated alongside national currencies, except that other European nations were too far down the road to a single currency to be interested. "If the euro is indeed built upon the

sand of fudged criteria, it might well float down against its launch," he writes. "The greatest advantage of all is that it would allow us to test the quality of the euro."

Conversely, if a future UK government were tempted to print money and fuel inflation to solve short-term problems, British citizens could seek refuge in the euro to protect their savings. "People would use the one they preferred, the one they trusted," Dr Pirie believes.

There are plenty of countries that accept two currencies on a *de facto* basis — sterling and the Irish pound are acceptable both sides of the border, the US dollar is almost as good as the Canadian one north of the 49th Parallel, in Hong Kong anything goes as long as it is money, and Russians prefer the greenback to the ruble.

Dr Pirie says: "From the Government's point of view, it has the attraction that it would probably unite the Conservative Party. And, as so often happens these days, it would surely be only a matter of time before new Labour announced that it, too, had accepted the new policy."



If selected by the Norwegians, the Eurofighter will provide BAe and its partners with a contract worth £400 million

Oslo's sights on Eurofighter

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AEROSPACE is close to registering its biggest success so far with a contract worth £400 million. Norway is the first country outside the four nations building the aircraft to put the multi-role fighter on a final selection list.

If the Eurofighter is selected this will be another boost for BAe, which is expected to report a 33 per cent increase in profits to £440 million on Wednesday. The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence committed itself to buying either the Eurofighter or the American F16 for delivery in 2003. An estimated 40 aircraft will be purchased.

A spokesman for Dasa, the German Eurofighter partner, said the Norwegians' decision will trigger a breakthrough in export negotiations. These could bring billions of pounds to the European defence industry and would create up to 14,000 jobs in Britain.

He said: "This is of paramount importance for our market in the Middle East. There is a close link between Oslo and Copenhagen, and this will encourage the Danes to get the Eurofighter."

The Norwegian decision is seen as vindication of the BAe and Dasa strategy to stick to the Eurofighter through its many problems. The Rafale fighter, France's answer to the Eurofighter, was selected by the Norwegians.

BAe has argued that export sales will make the British Government's support for the project worthwhile. In return for the taxpayers' money spent on the Eurofighter, the Treasury stands to reap millions in tax revenue from exports.

Nevertheless, BAe's marketing strategy for the Eurofighter is being openly challenged by its American rival. The BAe case on the Eurofighter rests on the argument that its higher price

compared with all competitor aircraft except the F22 is justified by its performance.

But Lockheed Martin, which manufactures the F16, claims that the updated version is a match for the Eurofighter. Dain Hancock, president of Lockheed's tactical aircraft division, said: "The technology of the newest F16 can compete effectively against any multi-role fighter in the world."

Norway has been flying earlier F16s since the 1980s, according to Lockheed. The country is participating in a European five-nation programme, which includes the Danish air force, to update the F16.

Computer Cabs on track for March 4 start

By FRASER NELSON

COMPUTER CABS has won its battle to join the Alternative Investment Market, with more than half of its 2,000 member drivers voting with their wallets and subscribing for shares.

The company, which operates London's largest network of black cabs, has named March 4 as its date for joining the junior exchange, after fending off three legal actions to thwart its flotation plans.

While a mass meeting of 800 cabbies supported the flotation in November, rebels who wanted free shares in return for the £3.5 million they paid towards a satellite tracking system tried to prevent the float. They claim that only a quarter of the drivers have been fitted with the system.

However, after a successful placing, Computer Cabs has now raised £4 million — enough to complete the £7.5 million needed for the complete satellite system.

VFG, the film and TV production company whose finance director is David Stamp, joins the market this week valued at £7 million. It has raised £3 million for new equipment. The Screen, which provides touchtone security control systems, plans to raise £2 million through a flotation next month.

Other companies hovering around the market include Q Group, which publishes economics and languages products. It is looking to raise £4 million to fund growth.

Avalon Oil, an oil exploration

company which has joined forces with Gazprom, is raising £35 million from a placing and should join AIM in three weeks' time.

The newcomers will join a market that is marooned at a near high, but has failed to break through its peak for the third week in succession. The FT-SE AIM index, which surged by some 10 per cent over four weeks, gained by 1.2 points last week to close at 1,129.90.

While the calm owes a lot to the stability of AIM's giants, its penny shares have been helping to prop up the market with a minor resurgence.

The market value of Epic Multimedia, whose shares last month performed one of the most spectacular recoveries seen on the junior exchange, recovered by some 27 per cent last week, with a rise from 11p to 14p per share.



Stamp: VFG market launch

| ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|-------------------|-------------|-----|-------|------|---------|------|-----|-------------------|-------------|-----|-------|------|
| 1996/97 | High | Low | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Why | Yld % | P/E | 1996/97 | High | Low | Mid cap (million) | Price pence | Why | Yld % | P/E |
| 150 | 117 | 108 | 11.80 | 117 | 108 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 150 | 117 | 108 | 11.80 | 117 | 108 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 151 | 108 | 107 | 11.80 | 108 | 107 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 151 | 108 | 107 | 11.80 | 108 | 107 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 152 | 107 | 106 | 11.80 | 107 | 106 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 152 | 107 | 106 | 11.80 | 107 | 106 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 153 | 106 | 105 | 11.80 | 106 | 105 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 153 | 106 | 105 | 11.80 | 106 | 105 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 154 | 105 | 104 | 11.80 | 105 | 104 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 154 | 105 | 104 | 11.80 | 105 | 104 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 155 | 104 | 103 | 11.80 | 104 | 103 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 155 | 104 | 103 | 11.80 | 104 | 103 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 156 | 103 | 102 | 11.80 | 103 | 102 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 156 | 103 | 102 | 11.80 | 103 | 102 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 157 | 102 | 101 | 11.80 | 102 | 101 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 157 | 102 | 101 | 11.80 | 102 | 101 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 158 | 101 | 100 | 11.80 | 101 | 100 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 158 | 101 | 100 | 11.80 | 101 | 100 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 159 | 100 | 99 | 11.80 | 100 | 99 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 159 | 100 | 99 | 11.80 | 100 | 99 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 160 | 99 | 98 | 11.80 | 99 | 98 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 160 | 99 | 98 | 11.80 | 99 | 98 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 161 | 98 | 97 | 11.80 | 98 | 97 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 161 | 98 | 97 | 11.80 | 98 | 97 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 162 | 97 | 96 | 11.80 | 97 | 96 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 162 | 97 | 96 | 11.80 | 97 | 96 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 163 | 96 | 95 | 11.80 | 96 | 95 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 163 | 96 | 95 | 11.80 | 96 | 95 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 164 | 95 | 94 | 11.80 | 95 | 94 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 164 | 95 | 94 | 11.80 | 95 | 94 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 165 | 94 | 93 | 11.80 | 94 | 93 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 165 | 94 | 93 | 11.80 | 94 | 93 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 166 | 93 | 92 | 11.80 | 93 | 92 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 166 | 93 | 92 | 11.80 | 93 | 92 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 167 | 92 | 91 | 11.80 | 92 | 91 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 167 | 92 | 91 | 11.80 | 92 | 91 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 168 | 91 | 90 | 11.80 | 91 | 90 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 168 | 91 | 90 | 11.80 | 91 | 90 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 169 | 90 | 89 | 11.80 | 90 | 89 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 169 | 90 | 89 | 11.80 | 90 | 89 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 170 | 89 | 88 | 11.80 | 89 | 88 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 170 | 89 | 88 | 11.80 | 89 | 88 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 171 | 88 | 87 | 11.80 | 88 | 87 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 171 | 88 | 87 | 11.80 | 88 | 87 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 172 | 87 | 86 | 11.80 | 87 | 86 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 172 | 87 | 86 | 11.80 | 87 | 86 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 173 | 86 | 85 | 11.80 | 86 | 85 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 173 | 86 | 85 | 11.80 | 86 | 85 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 174 | 85 | 84 | 11.80 | 85 | 84 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 174 | 85 | 84 | 11.80 | 85 | 84 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 175 | 84 | 83 | 11.80 | 84 | 83 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 175 | 84 | 83 | 11.80 | 84 | 83 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 176 | 83 | 82 | 11.80 | 83 | 82 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 176 | 83 | 82 | 11.80 | 83 | 82 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 177 | 82 | 81 | 11.80 | 82 | 81 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 177 | 82 | 81 | 11.80 | 82 | 81 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 178 | 81 | 80 | 11.80 | 81 | 80 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 178 | 81 | 80 | 11.80 | 81 | 80 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 179 | 80 | 79 | 11.80 | 80 | 79 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 179 | 80 | 79 | 11.80 | 80 | 79 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 180 | 79 | 78 | 11.80 | 79 | 78 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 180 | 79 | 78 | 11.80 | 79 | 78 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 181 | 78 | 77 | 11.80 | 78 | 77 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 181 | 78 | 77 | 11.80 | 78 | 77 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 182 | 77 | 76 | 11.80 | 77 | 76 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 182 | 77 | 76 | 11.80 | 77 | 76 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 183 | 76 | 75 | 11.80 | 76 | 75 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 183 | 76 | 75 | 11.80 | 76 | 75 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 184 | 75 | 74 | 11.80 | 75 | 74 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 184 | 75 | 74 | 11.80 | 75 | 74 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 185 | 74 | 73 | 11.80 | 74 | 73 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 185 | 74 | 73 | 11.80 | 74 | 73 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 186 | 73 | 72 | 11.80 | 73 | 72 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 186 | 73 | 72 | 11.80 | 73 | 72 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 187 | 72 | 71 | 11.80 | 72 | 71 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 187 | 72 | 71 | 11.80 | 72 | 71 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 188 | 71 | 70 | 11.80 | 71 | 70 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 188 | 71 | 70 | 11.80 | 71 | 70 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 189 | 70 | 69 | 11.80 | 70 | 69 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 189 | 70 | 69 | 11.80 | 70 | 69 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 190 | 69 | 68 | 11.80 | 69 | 68 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 190 | 69 | 68 | 11.80 | 69 | 68 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 191 | 68 | 67 | 11.80 | 68 | 67 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 191 | 68 | 67 | 11.80 | 68 | 67 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 192 | 67 | 66 | 11.80 | 67 | 66 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 192 | 67 | 66 | 11.80 | 67 | 66 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 193 | 66 | 65 | 11.80 | 66 | 65 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 193 | 66 | 65 | 11.80 | 66 | 65 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 194 | 65 | 64 | 11.80 | 65 | 64 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 194 | 65 | 64 | 11.80 | 65 | 64 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 195 | 64 | 63 | 11.80 | 64 | 63 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 195 | 64 | 63 | 11.80 | 64 | 63 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 196 | 63 | 62 | 11.80 | 63 | 62 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 196 | 63 | 62 | 11.80 | 63 | 62 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 197 | 62 | 61 | 11.80 | 62 | 61 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 197 | 62 | 61 | 11.80 | 62 | 61 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 198 | 61 | 60 | 11.80 | 61 | 60 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 198 | 61 | 60 | 11.80 | 61 | 60 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 199 | 60 | 59 | 11.80 | 60 | 59 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 199 | 60 | 59 | 11.80 | 60 | 59 | 10.8 | 11.4 |
| 200 | 59 | 58 | 11.80 | 59 | 58 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 200 | 59 | 58 | 11.80 | 59 | 58 | 10.8 | 11.4 |

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CBI condemns Lang's strategy to curb strikes

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry has delivered its strongest criticism yet of government proposals for legislation to curb strikes, describing them as unworkable.

The CBI has already angered ministers by declaring its opposition to the Government's green paper *Industrial Action and Trade Unions*.

However, the CBI has now taken its criticisms further in a detailed response to the green paper, which has been sent to the minister responsible, Ian Lang, President of the Board

of Trade. The CBI's unpublished document, which has been seen by *The Times*, rejects Mr Lang's central proposal, which would remove the right to immunity from civil action from unions organising industrial action that would have "disproportionate" or excessive effects.

Ministers see this as a means of resolving legal problems about legislating on strikes in essential services. Although the CBI makes clear that it shares the Government's concern about such

disputes, it says that the Government proposal is "unworkable" and may well result in greater uncertainty rather than resolving conflict.

Under the Government's plan, the courts would decide what constituted disproportionate action, but the CBI attacks what it calls "inherent difficulties" in this approach, maintaining that it will be "impractical" to suppose that a court could adjudicate on such an issue.

Mr Lang's green paper accepts that its proposed approach would lead initially to some uncertainty, but it claims that this would decline as the courts built up case law. The CBI rejects this as an "untenable position", since it would leave the outcomes of disputes to be decided by litigation, which CBI leaders say would be "highly undesirable".

Going to the courts for a decision in disputes in this manner, with this degree of uncertainty, would be "wasteful of everyone's time and resources", the CBI says, with none of the moves suggested by the Government appearing to be "conducive to resolving disputes themselves".

Mr Lang is also proposing that ballots before strikes should require the approval of all employees entitled to vote, rather than a straight majority of those voting. The CBI says that this does "not appear to be equitable" because it would mean laying down new rules for strikes "which do not apply more generally".

Ministers also want to increase the period of notice required to be given before a strike starts from seven days to 14 days, but the CBI says that such an extension "may have the adverse effects of increasing unofficial action".

Aborigines block RTZ mine sale

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

Plans by RTZ, the mining company, to sell its Century Zinc mine in northern Australia to Pasminco, the mining group, for A\$345 million (£172 million) have been put into jeopardy with the refusal of Aboriginal groups to allow the development to proceed.

The sale of Century Zinc was agreed in principle in January but is conditional on RTZ-CRA being able to secure mining leases for the site from the Queensland government, which can only be granted once agreement with local Aborigines has been reached.

The rejection is a major blow for RTZ, which has spent 18 months negotiating a A\$60 million social and economic compensation package with Aborigines in return for their backing for the mine. The case will now

go to formal arbitration before the Native Title Tribunal, where a panel will take up to six months to decide whether to allow the mine to go ahead.

Greg Walker, a spokesman for RTZ said yesterday: "Pasminco is not interested in buying a promise. It wants a project."

"It was a condition of the sale that Century Zinc is able to provide valid and secure titles for the mine, and the State Government is unable to issue the mine leases until the Native Title Tribunal is completed."

The Century Zinc saga has strengthened calls within Australia for a complete overhaul of the current legal system in the face of continuing confusion about whether leases granted to miners and farmers override Aboriginal rights to the land.



Trekking to market: Chris Flockhart, left, technical director, and Guy Fowler, chief executive

Tricorder seeks Ofex funds

THE world's first hand-held 3D digital scanner is coming to the market via the flotation of Tricorder Technology (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, which holds an international patent, hopes to raise £3 million through an offer for subscription on the Ofex market.

Its device, the Tricorder, is named after the 3D scanner from the original *Star Trek* TV series. It can scan images ranging from buildings to insects and is aimed at the market for 3D visuals in computer games and Internet Web sites. Chris Flockhart, technical director, said: "It

would considerably reduce the cost of 3D scanning as existing scanners use a lot of mechanical parts whereas our technology is based in silicone chips." The company is raising the money in an attempt to sell the scanner on the mass market. It estimates that 800,000 companies would be interested in buying it.

Dr Guy Fowler, chief executive, has recruited some leading industrialists. Dr Robert Hawley, chief executive of British Energy, and John Forrest, a director of News Digital Media, are joining the board.

Davies urges consolidated approach to regulation

By A CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD DAVIES, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, has called for a more consolidated approach to the regulation of financial institutions.

In a speech to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's financial markets conference on Saturday he said this was needed more than ever as international financial firms are tending to centralise their internal controls.

Mr Davies said the concept of a "lead regulator" or "co-ordinating supervisor" is being widely discussed and he raised several possibilities for tasks that the role could include:

- Quantitative and qualitative assessment of international financial groups as a whole.
- Taking the primary role in management of emergencies.
- Acting to ease the exchange of information between different regulators.
- Looking in the long term at how to improve co-ordination of supervisors' efforts.

The intention is that each host authority should be able to carry out these responsibilities more effectively by relying to some extent on the work of others," Mr Davies said.

He noted that enthusiasm for the idea in the US has been muted, although commercial banks are already subject to consolidated supervision.

"More problematic is the position of the US investment banking groups who, uniquely among the banking and securities industries in major countries, are not subject to consolidated supervision."

Mr Davies noted that the debate on how these groups should be regulated tends to be regarded as largely an internal matter, adding that their international reach should make the issue one of great interest

and concern to the international financial community.

In his speech, Mr Davies reiterated the Bank's view that supervision of British banks should be kept separate and carried out by the body that maintains the stability of the financial system — the Bank of England. Mr Davies said the Bank favours a Holy Trinity approach, the Trinity being regulators for financial services, banking and insurance.

End urged to savings tax perks

By TOM TUGENDHAT

DEMOS, the left-leaning think-tank, wants the abolition of the tax incentives on savings endorsed by both the Government and the Labour Party.

John Major has been one of the main supporters of the tax incentive scheme, introducing the Tessa while at Number 11.

In a report published today, Demos argues that private pension plans, Tessa and Peps are tax breaks for the middle classes, which move savings from one form to another without encouraging extra thrift at the cost of £10 billion to the Exchequer.

Rather than opting into occupational pensions, employees should have to opt out, starting a culture of saving.



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Fraser Nelson, right, is taught how to trade by Sarah Bates and Stephen Daglish

I want you to feel sick. I want you to have that feeling deep in your stomach you can only get when you are handling millions of pounds and you know that you are losing control."

Sarah Bates, managing director of Invesco's closed-end funds, the investment house, wanted me to know how it felt to be a dealer. With a dozen other journalists who seldom give a second thought to the sweat behind the market prices, we were being initiated into the world of the market-maker via a home-made virtual trading room.

Invesco had done its utmost to create reality. Tablecloths had been scattered across one of its sanitised meeting rooms, and the walls had been adorned with topless women and fully clad footballers. We each had a PC, and were given lots of virtual money to try our hand at making millions.

It came complete with pep talk from an instructor.

"Good morning. My name is Stephen Daglish. You may have seen me recently on a BBC2 programme..."

"Crimeswatch" offered a voice from the back, to raucous laughter. "Naked City," he corrected. "This morning, we will be dealing in shares in the country's biggest commodity — UK plc. Or, as it is better known, sterling. It may be called currency but you might as well call it a share."

The rules: We had lots of dollars with which to buy lots of pounds and we were to adopt dealers' language. An offer to buy pounds at \$1.6397 and sell at \$1.6402 is called 97/02. The difference between the two is called a "spread", and poor traders create something called a "burn door" — a spread so large that a truck can apparently be driven through it.

A rate of \$1.6390 is called "90 figure" because traders can pronounce "figure" slightly more quickly than they can "00". Lastly, no self-respecting dealer deals in denominations of less than £5 million. Buy cheap, sell dear, make millions. Simple.

We were split into pairs, and I

found myself next to a reporter from the *Institutional Investor*. We kicked off buying £5 million from Citibank at a rate of \$1.6397. Quiet market, no problem. Buy another £5 million at the same risk. Then pow! — SBC Warburg calls up with £10 million to buy at \$1.6402 or sell at \$1.6398 (known in the trade as 97/04). Were they buyers or sellers? They bought.

Result.

As the money rolled in, the normally disaffected journalists began to liven up and employ some of the newfangled language of the trading floor.

My dealing partner was already narrowing his eyes at the screen and muttering things like, "64 figure! Ooh, baby, we'll have you."

When our virtual market closed for lunch, we had chalked up some £77,000 in profit. It was some thought — we had earned more than our combined annual salaries in less than an hour. Currency dealing, it seemed, was the definitive quick buck.

Everyone returned from lunch looking quite cheerful. "That was straightforward," our instructor told us. "The market was not moving. This time, we're going to spice things up with a few news items. Imagine the world in four months' time..."

Round Two saw us dropped in a virtual June 1997. The first news item that lit up the screens was an election victory for the Conservatives. The pound and the gilt market roared. Major from the hustings, read the bulletin. To celebrate, we bought around 20 million of them.

Big mistake. Five minutes later, we had lost every penny of the £77,000 so easily picked up in the first half. Virtual Ford workers at Dagenham had rather unhelpfully gone on a strike, prompting a further drop in the pound. By this time, we had been tricked into buying — or being "long" on — £75 million, and were watching its value plunge.

"Whadya think?" asked the *Institutional Investor* reporter, whose finger had now stopped twitching on the mouse. "Dunno," I replied. "It's bound to bounce back. Market jitters." I wasn't convincing, he kept selling, and the pound dropped to \$1.6320.

As time ticked away, I came up with the idea of presenting the market with a high selling price and a low buying price, so someone would relieve us of our unwanted millions. This, it seemed, was not cricket.

"Uh uh," warned the instructor. "If you show a two-way price with a one-way intent, you lose your reputation and no-one will come back to you. If you're going to be a professional player, you must never show whether you are a buyer or a seller."

So, we stuck with a "tight spread" and continued to lose money until the pound hit \$1.6424. Then things were looking up. The virtual newswire had gone quiet — the top story was England's line-up for the Ireland match and the rates were stabilising. My co-trader then turned from bear to bull. "Time to buy like crazy," he said. I nodded supportively, and

we snapped up £30 million. Another big mistake. "George Soros has warned that sterling will once again become the sick currency of Europe," read the virtual headline. Pound plunges, we despair, and sell enough to just miss out on minor resurgence. We jump back in to the market just seconds before Kenneth Clarke's virtual resignation is flashed on the screens. Groans all round.

"When sterling goes up a point there are cheers, when it goes down ten points it is ignored," observed our instructor. "I don't need to ask how we are all doing." He came over to our computer, which was by now showing Leeson's losses. "Still buying?" he asked. "In a falling market?"

"It's going to rebound," I explained, sternly.

He shrugged. "Up to you guys — prop up the home currency if you want."

The pound never did mount a comeback. After some suspiciously astute trading from my co-trader, we ended up losing a mere £300,000. Some thought — we had lost more than our combined mortgages in less than an hour.

It could have been worse. Someone in the back row was admitting to losses of more than £500,000. Others looked as if they had been trading away their pensions. Our instructor was smiling away. "See?" he said. "You can never predict the markets."

For the brave, Mr Daglish's virtual trading experience is available by calling 0171-488 1637.

Disney 'fat cats' face shareholder protest after \$70m payoff

A CLAMPDOWN on American fat cats is set to follow a shareholder protest tomorrow about the size of the pay package for Michael Eisner, chairman of Walt Disney, and of other senior executives, due to take place at the company's annual meeting.

Progressive Asset Management, a California brokerage firm, has filed a resolution calling for a cap on future severance packages and salaries for top

executives. In a separate move, other leading institutional shareholders such as the California Public Employees Retirement System, the largest pension fund in the US, are expected to withhold their support for four executives who come up for re-election at the meeting as a sign of protest over pay packages. CalPERS has a policy of active intervention in companies over issues of corporate governance. The protest was fuelled by the \$70

million payoff for Michael Ovitz who recently left his job as Mr Eisner's deputy after only a year at Disney. Mr Eisner himself is one of the highest-paid executives in the US, garnering several hundred million dollars in pay, bonuses and share options during his ten years as head of Disney. CalPERS is also considering joining a lawsuit brought against Disney by angry shareholders protesting at the size of Mr

Ovitz's deal. "There will be a lot of anger vented at the meeting", said Conrad Mackerron, director of social research at PAM. "We want to send a message to Disney to preserve its good name." The protest is part of the growing disquiet in US business at the soaring levels of top executives' pay, which have far outstripped those of other workers in the past three years. PAM is supported by shareholders who include the United Methodist

Church, and by the Communications Workers of America, the main union at the ABC television network that Disney purchased last year. They are also objecting to low level of wages that they claim Disney pays to contract workers in developing countries such as Haiti. Many workers receive only 30 cents an hour, a third of what many other US companies pay, Mr Mackerron said.

"The huge disparity between the contract workers and the executives is unacceptable", he said. PAM and its backers expect to get support from the 6 per cent of shareholders required to bring up the same issue at next year's meeting. Refusal to support the four directors coming up for re-election, however, is expected to extend to as many as 20 per cent of shareholders. "That would certainly be seen as an anti-Ovitz vote," said Mr Mackerron.



Eisner: highly paid

Engineers tone down stance on minimum wage law

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of Britain's engineering industry are to make a significant about-turn over Labour's plans for a national minimum wage by pragmatically advising engineering companies on how best to deal with its introduction.

The move by the Engineering Employers' Federation stops short of abandoning opposition to a minimum wage, but will be seen by Labour as indicating industry's readiness, if necessary, to implement minimum pay and as a sign of business's belief in at least the strong possibility of Labour winning the coming election.

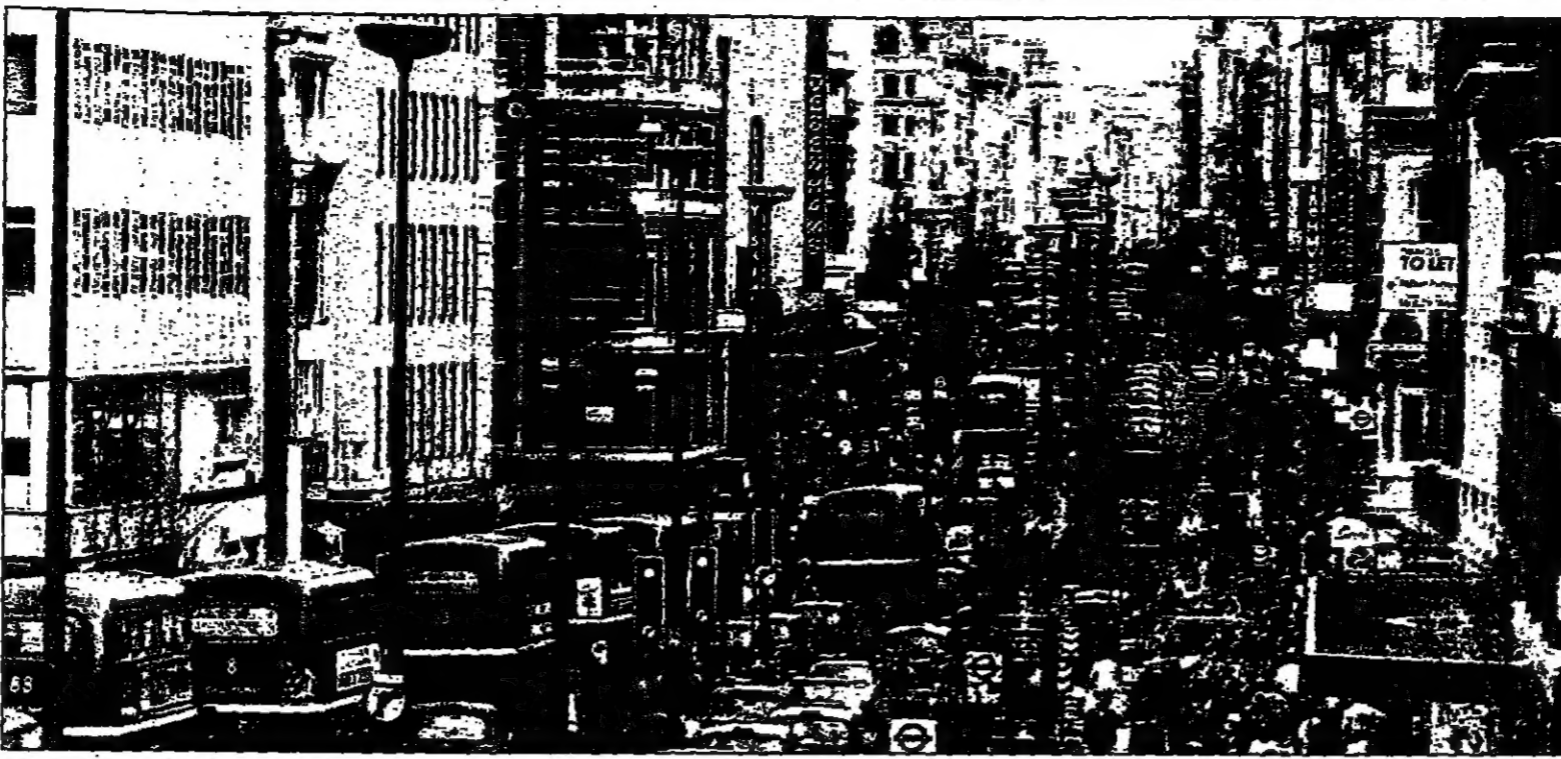
Previously, the EEF was completely opposed to Labour's plans to put a statutory floor under wages, but EEF leaders have now shifted to a more practical approach.

A similar shift by the EEF over the introduction in Britain of European-style works councils led to Conservative claims that such practical advice on operation of these consultative bodies was in effect giving support to them by abandoning opposition.

An unpublished EEF policy paper on minimum pay, seen by *The Times*, makes clear that engineering companies still do not support it because of what they see as its inflationary effect on the economy, which they say is likely to lead to employee pressure for higher pay deals. They also warn of effects increasing the industry's costs, including pressure for maintenance of pay differentials, both in the industry and between engineering and other sectors, and the potential for increased costs by subcontractors working for engineering firms, many of whose employees, unlike engineering workers in the main, would be likely to be directly affected by a minimum pay law.

One engineering industry leader said: "Our position on the minimum wage is clarified. We are still arguing against it. But we are moving to a practical position."

EEF leaders have now requested involvement in Labour's planned Low Pay Commission, which, if the party forms a Government, would advise it a minimum pay level. The EEF paper also makes suggestions to try to ensure that any implementation of minimum pay is "handled sensitively" and to minimise potential adverse effects. These include setting it at an unspecified "low" level, giving employers time to implement it and exempting, as Labour intends, young people in training leading to recognised qualifications.



Oxford Street has been showing the sort of rental growth not seen since the late-1980s and which is expected to spread to the regions by the summer

Record rents in Oxford Street signal road to retail boom

By JASON NISSE

THREE record lettings for stores in Oxford Street, London's leading shopping thoroughfare, have signalled a retail property boom outstripping that of the late-1980s.

Since Christmas record rents have been set in landmark deals along Oxford Street and property experts say the boom will hit the regions by the summer.

The lettings confirm the recovery in retailing after the poor Christmas that was shown in last week's January retail sales figures. It also

brings the spectre of the economy overheating. This was reinforced yesterday when Barclays, the high street bank, said it expected interest rates to rise to 7.5 per cent by the end of the year.

The first deal was for a 2,575 sq ft store at 248 Oxford Street which was let to Allsports, the leisure clothing retailer, for £380,000 a year. Ten other retailers bid for the site and it is believed that Allsports was not the highest offer.

The effective rent per square foot was a record, beating the

all-time high for Oxford Street set in 1989, and property experts wondered whether it was a one-off.

However two more deals have confirmed the boom. The lease on the 10,000 sq ft store at 187-195, currently occupied by Next, was sold at a premium of £1.5 million. The current rent is £515,000 a year and the next rent review is not until 2001, so the effective rent is more than £900,000 a year. This site is on a less attractive part of the street than 248.

Another site of a similar size at 175-179 was also let out last week. Though the owners, Liverpool Victoria Assurance, would not reveal the rental, it is understood that it was around £900,000 a year, more than twice the previous rent level which was set in 1992.

Chris Phillips, retail partner at Healey & Baker, the surveyors, said that Oxford Street was showing the sort of rental growth that had not been seen since the late-1980s.

Mr Phillips is predicting a nationwide retail property boom this year. "What we see

in Oxford Street will be seen in the major cities within six months," he said.

The property boom of the 1980s led a number of leading retailers to speculate in property, often with disastrous results. One of them, Burton, has recently bought out the lease of its head office at Oxford Circus and is looking to let out the upper floors for retailing. One of the interested parties is said to be Nike, the sports clothing manufacturer, which wants to set up a London superstore.

IPD urges publication of personnel strategies

By CHRIS AYRES

COMPANIES should include detailed accounts of their employment practices in annual reports, the Institute of Personnel and Development will today tell the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance.

The IPD says investors rarely understand the people management strategies of the companies they invest in, and is urging the committee to change the way that company performance is measured.

The committee, led by Sir Ronald Hampel, the chairman of ICI, was created last year to recommend ways in which companies can be managed more effectively in the light of the Greenbury and Cadbury reports. It will produce a report later this year.

The IPD will tell the committee that companies should produce social reports supported by a comparison of the company's performance with its people management policy.

Geoff Armstrong, IPD director-general, said: "Despite overwhelming evidence demonstrating the link between good people management and organisational success, investors still base their decisions almost exclusively on the perceived financial performance and prospects of organisations."

"They do not recognise that their lack of knowledge about the employment strategies of these businesses represents a huge gap in their understanding," Mr Armstrong said. The City had an indirect influence over the people manage-

ment strategies of companies, and he used it as a further reason for a wider discussion on employment issues.

He said: "Pressure to increase earnings per share may mean that managers are tempted to focus too much on squeezing labour costs."

"An innovative, dynamic workforce, which has taken years to build, can be destroyed by the decision of the moment to satisfy short-sighted pressures from investors."

Halifax float set to boost share deals

THE London Stock Exchange could face a huge increase in transactions later this year if proposals for the flotation of the Halifax Building Society are voted through today (Caroline Merrell writes).

The Halifax expects its £10 billion float to generate 100,000 transactions a day on the Stock Exchange immediately afterwards, swelling the 60,000 transactions executed daily by the Exchange. Share deals are also likely to increase because of the Alliance & Leicester float just before the Halifax listing.

The Halifax vote will take place today in Sheffield.

Mondex UK enlists GiroVend help by acquiring 10% stake

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MONDEX UK, the electronic smartcard company, has acquired a 10 per cent stake in GiroVend Cashless Systems, the supplier of cashless payment systems for in-house catering and vending machines.

The deal, which is backed by a co-operation agreement, should help Mondex - which has been jointly developed by NatWest, Midland and BT as a new form of cashless payment - to find markets for its multi-purpose cards. The cards can be used as cash cards to access bank accounts, to pay at vending machines and stores and also to give access to restricted areas and computer systems.

Ron Clark, chief executive of Mondex UK, said: "GiroVend is an undoubted market leader in this field." GiroVend is due to float next month. The listing will value the company at around £25 million.

Mondex and GiroVend intend to target universities, they said. Mondex's smartcards have been tested

in Swindon and in pilot schemes at the Universities of York and Exeter.

MasterCard International's acquisition of 51 per cent of Mondex was also completed yesterday, the companies said. This makes London-based Mondex International a subsidiary of the American credit card giant.

Michael Keegan, chief executive of Mondex International, said: "We are delighted that Mondex has become part of the MasterCard family and believe that MasterCard will enhance Mondex's technical leadership, speed up worldwide acceptance of Mondex and recruit additional members and retailers worldwide."

The founders of Mondex, which will still have its headquarters in London, will retain a 49 per cent stake.

Among the organisations signed up to use Mondex are Royal Bank of Canada, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Wells Fargo, AT&T, Chase Manhattan and ten major banks in Australasia.

Health cover from Tesco and Safeway

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SAFEGWAY and Tesco, the supermarket groups, are to open a new front in the battle for loyalty by offering health insurance to their customers.

Safeway is expected to offer medical insurance cover from Norwich Union Healthcare, which already supplies policies to Abbey National. Safeway's banking partner.

Tesco is considering a free insurance scheme for holders of its Clubcard Plus. Under the scheme, stores would pay for groceries if the customer were made redundant or became too ill to work. Tesco may extend the scheme to include health insurance, for which cardholders would pay extra. It is believed to be discussing the move with various health insurance providers.

The company, which is moving into banking in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland, is believed to be discussing the free grocery insurance scheme with Lloyd's underwriters. Tesco's banking enterprise will begin with a credit card to be launched this summer.

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TOURIST RATES

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 2.18 | 2.02 |
| Austria Sch | 20.08 | 18.58 |
| Belgium Fr | 66.94 | 54.64 |
| Canada \$ | 2.503 | 2.143 |
| Cyprus Cyp£ | 0.846 | 0.791 |
| Denmark Kr | 10.93 | 10.13 |
| Finland Mk | 6.70 | 6.05 |
| France Fr | 9.57 | 8.92 |
| Germany Dm | 2.87 | 2.68 |
| Greece Dr | 444 | 418 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.13 | 12.15 |
| Iceland | 120 | 100 |
| Ireland P£ | 1.08 | 1.00 |
| Italy Lira | 5.69 | 5.04 |
| Israel Sh | 2613 | 2638 |
| Japan Yen | 212.20 | 196.20 |
| Malta | 0.855 | 0.800 |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.197 | 2.987 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.47 | 2.25 |
| Norway Kr | 11.44 | 10.64 |
| Portugal Esc | 282.50 | 265.00 |
| S Africa Rd | 7.83 | 7.28 |
| Spain Pta | 241.00 | 224.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.59 | 11.79 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.50 | 2.32 |
| Turkish Lira | 203400 | 169400 |
| USA \$ | 1.712 | 1.582 |

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques.

CHANGE ON WEEK

| THE POUND |
|--------------------------------------|
| US dollar |
| 1.6191 (-0.0022) |
| German mark |
| 2.7253 (-0.0095) |
| Exchange Index |
| 97.2 (-0.5) |
| Bank of England official close (4pm) |

STOCK MARKET

| |
|--------------------|
| FT 30 share |
| 2864.5 (+6.3) |
| FTSE 100 |
| 4338.8 (-4.2) |
| New York Dow Jones |
| 6931.62 (-57.34) |
| Tokyo Nikkei Ave |
| 19034.54 (+312.54) |

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 38

ORF
(b) A virus disease of sheep, cattle, and goats, characterised by a secondary infection with the bacillus *Fusiformis necrophorus*, which causes ulcers and scabs in and around the mouth and on the feet or other parts of the body. Also called scabby mouth, contagious ecthyma, or contagious pustular dermatitis. Variant of the dialect *hurf*, probably from the Old Norse *hryfa* crust or scab on a bull. The flock is then dipped, vaccinated against orf and allowed to scavenge.

RHAGES
(a) The name of a city (now Ray) in Iran, near Tehran, used attributively to designate a type of pottery made there from the 11th to the 13th centuries, characterised by polychrome enamelling. The designs on this Rhages enameled ware are pecked with miniature-like fineness recalling the beautiful workmanship in the manuscript illuminations of the early 13th century.

PIZE-BALL
(c) A game similar to rounders in which the ball is hit with the flat of the hand. Perhaps from the obscure Middle Dutch game *pisen*. "Pize-ball, dig, and a great number of games involving running round the lamp-posts or in and out of the closet-areas are still popular."

ORIHON
(d) A book formed by folding a printed roll alternately backwards and forwards between the columns, and usually fastening it with cord down one side. From the Japanese or *ori* a fold + *hon* a book. "Orihon, a manuscript roll on which the writing was done in columns running the short way of the paper with margins between each. The roll was then folded, the margins having the effect of a closed fan."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Bxe5 capturing a pawn and attacking the black rook, wins easily, as after 1... dxc2 2 Qd3 Qd8 3 Rxd8 4 Rxb8 5 Ke7 5 Rxb8 and the a-pawn queens.

مركز الامارات



The success of *Fargo* helped PolyGram's film division to break even for the first time



Jude was produced by Revolution Films, a partner in the Double Negative consortium

Numbers start to add up for British film-makers

Alasdair Murray on how lottery funds may play a lead role in UK's big-screen revival

It's a familiar script: plucky British film-makers overcome adversity at home to make a series of films that look set to sweep the Oscars, leaving the expensive and hyped Hollywood productions in their wake. Cut to winning speeches and cast a Colin Welland lookalike to loudly proclaim to LA that the British are coming.

If this was a Hollywood production, the story would invariably conclude with a happy ending: the directors and producers triumphantly moving on to bigger and better things. But being a British production, expect a dose of realism as the film ends with the heroes being forced to go cap in hand to sceptical bankers to fund their next productions.

The British film industry appears on the cusp of one of its periodic revivals. *The English Patient*, directed by Anthony Minghella, has secured 12 Oscar nominations. Other British films such as *Sweetness and Lies*, directed by Mike Leigh, and *Trainspotting* are also in the hunt for Oscar recognition, while *Fargo*, which has received seven nominations, was backed by Working Title, the UK production company.

The dog days of the 1980s when the collapse of Goldcrest, following the failure of its misguided epic *Revolution*, seemed to signal the death of the industry are now no more than a distant memory. Last year 127 films were made in the UK, compared with just ten in 1996. Total investment in film rose from less than £400 million in 1995 to more than £650 million.

PolyGram, Dutch-owned but based in the UK, revealed this month that its film division broke even for the first time in the second half of last year on the back of hits such as *Trainspotting* and *Fargo*. Meanwhile, Ridley and Tony Scott, the director brothers behind films such as *Blade Runner* and *Top Gun*, are preparing to float Shepperton studios on the stock market.

But the bare figures conceal the fact that a large proportion of these films were US-backed ventures taking advantage of the favourable exchange rate and British expertise. Mr Minghella was forced to fall back on financing from Miramax, owned by Disney, to film *The English Patient*. Blockbusters such as *Mission Impossible* and *101 Dalmatians* were made in the UK, while the *Star Wars* "prequels" and *Lost In Space* are booked in for this year.

The British film industry — with



Star turn: Double Negative's Rob Jones, left, Andrew Eaton, Michael Winterbottom, Eric Fellner and Tim Bevan

such as *Fargo* and *Dead Man Walking*.

Mr Fellner believes that the lottery money can make a genuine difference. He says: "We will continue to concentrate on making films in the \$10 million to \$40 million bracket but the money will enable us to place our resources and distribution channel at the disposal of new talent."

The consortium aims to operate a "godfathering" system, where directors and producers can bring in their ideas and benefit from the experience and funding available from the three companies. The lottery money should be sufficient to make around two extra films a year.

For Mr Fellner one of the most genuinely exciting parts of the consortium is the possibility that it could build up sufficient scale to make a trade sale or even float. "We hope that in around six years we could sell or raise new investment," he says.

Andrew Eaton, co-founder of consortium partner Revolution Films, agrees: "If the franchise goes to the right companies who can demonstrate their experience to the City, they should be able to float."

Mr Eaton started his career as script writer on the ill-fated *Revolution* and understands some of the City's reticence about investing in film. But he points to the booming cinema attendances, greater competition for films from television companies and a feeling that the industry has learnt from its mistakes.

"There is very little way that low budget films lose money," he says. "If you make three or four films, it only requires one to be a moderate hit to ensure a safe return." He believes that the industry has also learnt to market itself more professionally. The soundtrack of *Trainspotting*, for instance, took more money than the film itself in some countries.

The two conclude that the British film industry may now be able to complete its recovery. Mr Fellner says: "We will make money in the long run, providing the opportunities are there to make the films. Working Title spent \$60 million on British movies last year and we do not see why this should change."

Mr Eaton agrees, but emphasises that there is no point in making films to a formula. "You must believe in the film first," he said. "*Four Weddings and The Crying Game* were distinctive British films but convinced international investors to have faith in their success."

Major coup for train steward

TRAVELLING by train to Dartington last week, John Major caused a stir. Encoined in first class, with his sleeves rolled up and head in his work all the way from King's Cross, the Prime Minister set the kitchen sizzling. Stopping only to tuck into a full English breakfast — ten out of ten for the chef at Great Northern Railway — the Prime Minister was the focus of one particular steward's gaze. Almost as soon as the travelling dignitary had polished off the contents of the frying pan, the said steward, tongue fixed firmly in cheek, was auctioning off both Major's knife and fork. Starting price? £50.

Lost face

A VAST photograph of Colin Phipps, the founder and former chairman of Clyde Petroleum, who rather unapologetically sold his shares in the UK oil independent, helping Gulf Canada to gain control, has been defaced. The picture of Phipps (in which he is curiously dressed in shorts) that hangs in the Clyde boardroom, has been flipped over to face the wall. A giant "120p" has been scribbled in bold on the other side.

Rounder about the Middleton

PETER MIDDLETON stubbed out his last cigarette last year and the effects are already beginning to show. According to employees at Salomon Brothers, their chief executive's decision to kick the smoking habit before he walked down the aisle with sweetheart Anita, a 31-year-old nurse, last September, has left him looking at least two stone heavier.

Rabbit trick

NICK LESLAW, chief executive of Trocadero (of Segaworld fame), was said to be behaving like a naughty schoolboy grappling with one of his electronic games. Accosted by a distraught mother, who asked him if he

had anything to do with management, Leslaw dashed to the aid of her five-year-old daughter. The child, close to tears, had secured a cuddly rabbit with the game's electronic claw but 'could not make it let go. Leslaw did the decent thing and summoned management with the appropriate key.

A DOUBLE coup for London Scottish, the rugby union club eyeing a market listing. Having signed Scotland star Gavin Hastings as a non-executive director, it then signed Derek Lee, the Watsonians full-back. Any connection? After all, Lee has been keeping Hastings out of the Watsonians first XV this season.

Reality behind classic fiction

The Monday Play: *A House by the Sea*. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

One of the strengths of this prime drama slot is its willingness to take risks, notably with writers who are new to the medium. Stuart Fortey has had two plays performed on stage but this is his first piece for radio. It is set at rehearsals for the premiere performance of Chekhov's *The Seagull*. As the rehearsals progress, it becomes clear that much of the play mirrors Chekhov's life. The starkest manifestation of this is when Chekhov is visited at the theatre by a former love, Sonya, who is revealed as the model for Masha in *The Seagull*. Claran Hinds plays Chekhov, Helena Bonham Carter is Sonya and Sonya is played by Kate Buffery.

Voices of Sport. Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm.

This new series is about sports commentators and starts with a man whose later association with *This Is Your Life* gave him an undeserved public reputation as a somewhat sugary performer. In fact Eamonn Andrews was one of the finest boxing commentators in the history of radio, on either side of the Atlantic. His first boxing commentary, for Radio Eireann, had two remarkable features: Andrews was only 18 years old, and he was fighting on the same bill on which he was commenting. So here was a man who could talk you through a punch as if he had just thrown it. Among the voices of friends and colleagues in tonight's programme are Henry Cooper and Cliff Morgan.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Gunning 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Ann Hobbs with live coverage of the Brit Awards 1.00am Claire Sallenger 4.00 Dave Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 John Humphrys 1.30pm Double Takeover 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Squire 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Melanin Laycock with Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.30 Humphrys Lytton 10.30 The Best of Jazz 10.50 Radio Days (S4C) 10.30 The Jamiesons 12.00am Charles Nova 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Josephine (Mikros) and Darius. 7.00am Morning Collection. Peter Hodge features Brahms string quartets and sextets. Includes Balfour Gardner (Overture to a Comedy). 8.00am Musical Encounters. Includes Balfour Gardner (Overture to a Comedy). 8.15am Italian Encounters. 8.30am Concert. Part 2. Scelto (Toscanini). 8.45am Notes A series exploring modern sounds (1/2). 9.30am The Art of Tossell. The Keyboard, by Judith Weir. 10.00am Ensemble. Penny Gore. Introduces a recital by Lucy Joel, violin, and Judith Weir, piano. Mozart (Violin Sonata in C, K303). Brahms (Violin Sonata No 2 in A, Op 100). 10.15am Mixing it, with Mark Russell. 11.30am Composer of the Week: Hans Pfitzner (1). 12.00pm Jazz Motory. 1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

6.00am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.35 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Letters from Here and There 6.50 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 News The Lipton Test (F36). An examination of the British at play (1/6) 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (S4C) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-380 4444. Personal finance news 12.00 News: You and Yours (F36) 12.25pm Counterpoint 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (F36) 2.00 News: Staters, by Tina Papper. With Haydn Gwynne 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope 4.45 Short Story: The Astronomical Count, by Ruth Pender 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: A House by the Sea (1/2) 8.00 On the Hoof (2/3) (1) 8.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar, by Paul Theroux. Read by William Hurt (1/10) (1) 11.00 The Trade Rack (F36), with Nick Baker (5/5) (1) 11.00 Education Matters (LW), with Philippa Dolly 11.30 King Solomon's Carpet (F36) (4/4) (1) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather 12.30am The Late Book: I Am Still the Greatest Star, by Johnny Angelo, by Nik Cohn. Read by John Gorman (1/5) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

RADIO 5

6.00am Morning Reports. 6.00 The Breakfast Programme. Includes 6.55 Racing Preview 8.00 The Magazine, with David Hetherington 12.00 Midday with the Beatles at 12.30pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruocco on Five. Includes at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide. Includes at 6.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Voices of Sport. See Choice 8.00 The Monday Match. Coverage of West Ham v Tottenham. 10.30 News. Talk with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Edge with Lucy Thorpe 12.00am After Hours 2.00 All Night with Rhod Sharp

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports. 6.00 The Breakfast Programme. Includes 6.55 Racing Preview 8.00 The Magazine, with David Hetherington 12.00 Midday with the Beatles at 12.30pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruocco on Five. Includes at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide. Includes at 6.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Voices of Sport. See Choice 8.00 The Monday Match. Coverage of West Ham v Tottenham. 10.30 News. Talk with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Edge with Lucy Thorpe 12.00am After Hours 2.00 All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.30 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Clapham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tony Ray 7.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Most Dear Sportsman 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Josephine (Mikros) and Darius. 7.00am Morning Collection. Peter Hodge features Brahms string quartets and sextets. Includes Balfour Gardner (Overture to a Comedy). 8.00am Musical Encounters. Includes Balfour Gardner (Overture to a Comedy). 8.15am Italian Encounters. 8.30am Concert. Part 2. Scelto (Toscanini). 8.45am Notes A series exploring modern sounds (1/2). 9.30am The Art of Tossell. The Keyboard, by Judith Weir. 10.00am Ensemble. Penny Gore. Introduces a recital by Lucy Joel, violin, and Judith Weir, piano. Mozart (Violin Sonata in C, K303). Brahms (Violin Sonata No 2 in A, Op 100). 10.15am Mixing it, with Mark Russell. 11.30am Composer of the Week: Hans Pfitzner (1). 12.00pm Jazz Motory. 1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

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listen

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

| Country | Rate |
|--------------|------|
| USA | 10p |
| Australia | 20p |
| South Africa | 40p |
| India | 60p |

NEW PER SECOND BILLING

SWIFTCALL

| Country | Rate |
|------------|------|
| Australia | 20p |
| Canada | 18p |
| China | 60p |
| France | 18p |
| Germany | 10p |
| Greece | 20p |
| Hong Kong | 40p |
| India | 60p |
| Ireland | 18p |
| Japan | 30p |
| Malaysia | 24p |
| N. Zealand | 30p |
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| Singapore | 40p |
| S. Africa | 40p |
| Taiwan | 40p |
| Thailand | 70p |
| USA | 10p |

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